The Middlebury Campus

VOL. 95 NO. 13 | Thursday, September 11, 1997 | SINCE 1905

McCardell proposes bold changes for student life

By Sherry Schwarz
and Megan Sowards
News Editors

On Monday's annual "opening-of-the-year address," President McCardell outlined a bold vision for Middlebury College, emphasizing three far-reaching changes for student life: decentralized dining, a continuing residential commons system and on-campus faculty housing. McCardell proposed to implement these plans over the next 10 years as the college's enrollment approaches 2,350.

As Middlebury continues to grow, McCardell fears that the college is straying further from its roots as a small, liberal arts school known for "intimate, face-to-face interactions." It is his hope that by creating commons communities, where students will live, eat and study together, Middlebury will live up to its reputation as an institution which fosters relationships between students, faculty and staff both inside and outside of the classroom, while increasing its student body.

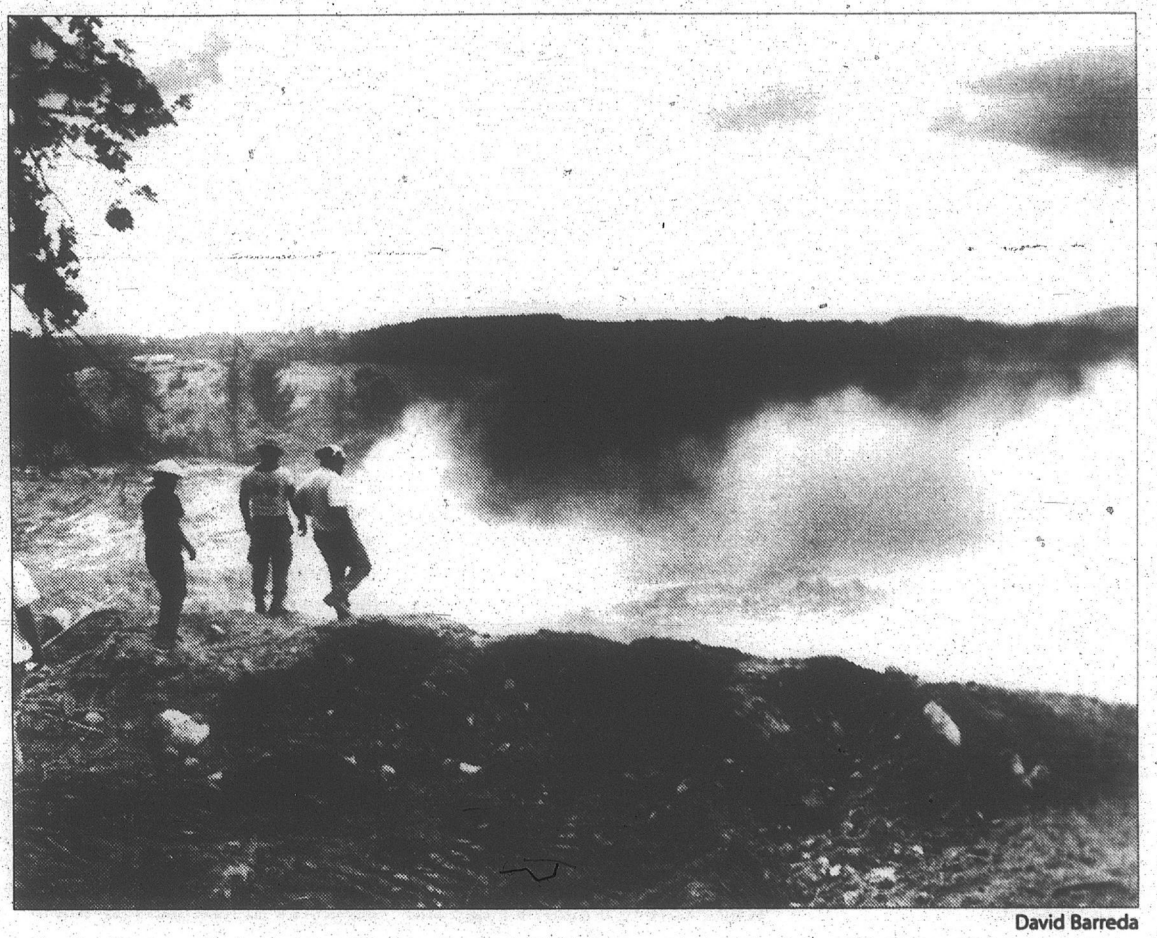
"I think we can do better and I think part of doing better has to do with creating or recreating operations on a size and a scale that...expands the opportunities [students] have for interaction with [their] classmates...," said McCardell. "That a single entity of 2,000 is too big, we will only too late discover when we reach 2,350."

Now at a crossroads, with major renovations slated and bicentennial fundraising potential estimated at more than $150 million, Middlebury needs to determine the course of its future. "This is an opportunity; this is a time to consider change," said McCardell.

The three points McCardell touched upon in his address are the core of a larger, more comprehensive residential system he envisions for Middlebury. McCardell presented his proposition, entitled "Thoughts on the Educational Benefits of the Residential Liberal Arts College," to the Board of Trustees in May 1997 and to the faculty on Sept. 5.

He outlined a system of small-scale residential groupings of approximately 350-400 students. "Through these manageable groupings, students would gain a keener sense of belonging, responsibility and empowerment as a result of living within one cluster of dormitories for several years...,"

(see McCardell, page 2)



David Barreda

Construction workers break ground on the land that is scheduled to house Bicentennial Hall by September 1999.

Bulldozers blaze the way for Bicentennial Hall

By Megan Mabee
Staff Writer

Construction workers broke ground in August for Bicentennial Hall, the state-of-the-art facility which will replace the current science center and contain the departments of psychology, geography, physics, geology, chemistry, biology, biochemistry and a portion of environmental studies.

Although the construction of Bicentennial Hall has been anticipated for quite some time, the impact of blasting bedrock to create the basement has dampened the enthusiasm of many of the students who live in the New Dorms. "We hear the horns every couple of minutes," one Lang resident recounted. "Then the whole dorm shakes."

The roar of bulldozers and the tremors of explosions are small prices to pay, in the long run, for a center that will revolutionize the science facilities at Middlebury.

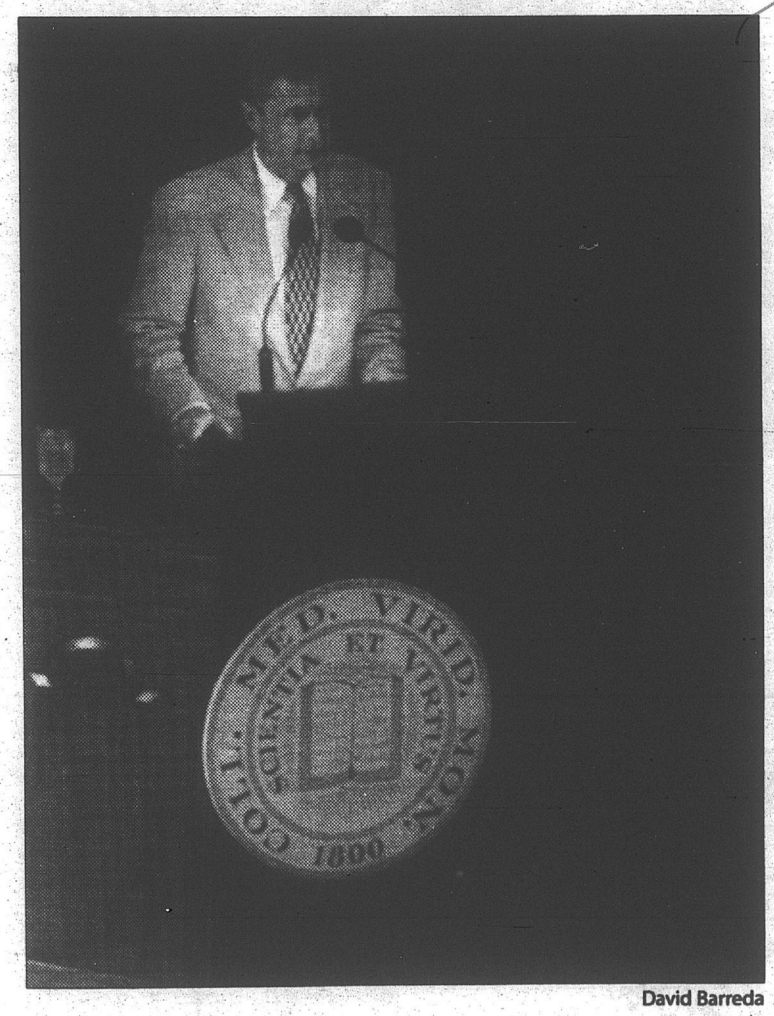
First and foremost, Bicentennial Hall will provide all professors with larger research spaces. In the current science building, some faculty members lack their own research areas, while others have research spaces that are so small that students have no room to sit down while they are working on projects.

Chemistry Professor Jim Larrabee emphasizes the importance of research spaces as an area where faculty members can serve as mentors to their students and teach them how to become laboratory scientists. "That's why you come to Middlebury for science: to do the one-on-one research with faculty members that you can't do at a large university," said Larrabee.

Bicentennial Hall will also have informal learning spaces, close to faculty offices on each floor. These lounges will allow students to ask their professors questions about their homework. The planned science library will be larger than the existing one, which provides little space for professorial offices. It will contain three large lecture rooms and various seminar rooms with high-tech audio-visual equipment, computer outlets for each student, and comfortable seats.

The $47,200,000 Bicentennial Hall project will not be used exclusively by science majors as the library and other study spaces will be built to attract students from all disciplines. In the summer, the labs and other classrooms will be used by language school students.

The construction of Bicentennial Hall will continue through the winter and the framework of the building will be in place by this spring. Final construction is expected to be completed in June of 1999, and the building will be fully operational that September. A construction update, open to the college community, will take place Thursday, Sept. 25 at 4:15 p.m. in Mitchell Green Lounge.



David Barreda

President McCardell reveals his innovative plan to restructure campus life.

SGA outlines its year-long agenda

By Jennifer Crystal
Staff Writer

The majority of the Middlebury community spent that last blissful week before school trying to soak up lingering rays of sunshine on the beach and enjoying the end of summer vacation. Student Government Association President Bryan Stratton '98 and Vice President Alyson Cucci '98, however, spent that last week here at Middlebury, preparing for what Dean Ann Craig Hanson foresees as an "excellent and exciting year" for the 1997-'98 SGA.

Having met with the Executive Committee over four times in the last week, Stratton believes that the group has "hit the ground running" and feels confident about its upcoming tasks. Aside from Stratton and Cucci, key players in the SGA this year include Chief of Staff Alex Zwerdling '00, Treasurer Dan Bryan '98, Secretary of Renovations John Felton '99, Secretary of Oversight Aaron Johnston '00, and Secretary of Student Alumni Relations Stephanie Crumb '00.

Stratton said that these leaders make up "a core group of people with incredibly diverse mind-sets, that work well together."

Although there are a range of tasks to be attacked and decisions to be executed during the year ahead, Stratton believes the most important element on the agenda is the renovation of college facilities. Concerning this matter, the SGA has already begun to evaluate President McCardell's recent proposal to reshape the structure of residential life.

One of Stratton's priorities is the overall safety of the campus. He would like to implement better lighting and more strategically placed emergency telephones. On the issue of security, the SGA intends to explore the relationship between Campus Security and the student body in order to foster better relations between the two.

In addition to reconstruction and security issues, one of the SGA's

(see SGA, page 3)

Inside...

President Bryan Stratton '98 updates students on status of the SGA. p. 4

Features

Otter Creek hypes new beer, Pale Ale. p. 7

Arts

John Nelson makes debut with Middlebury College Choir. p. 11

Index

Opinions 4
Features 7
Arts 10
Sports 16

The Campus is printed on recycled paper. It is also recyclable.

New street lights solve safety problems

Matt Potenza
Staff Writer

The college began several construction projects over the summer, including College Street renovations, the Ridgeline Woods housing project, plans to build a new ice rink and the construction of Bicentennial Hall.

The renovation of College Street is the first of the projects slated to be completed. Construction is running on schedule and should be finished by the end of this month.

The decision to renovate College Street came as a part of the other major construction projects occurring on campus. Before agreeing to issue the permit to build Bicentennial Hall, the town of Middlebury required the college to renovate College Street to alleviate pedestrian safety concerns arising from two accidents last year.

The $400,000 project will make College Street "look much nicer, like a boulevard," explained Phil Benoit, director of public affairs. The newly placed crosswalks will be better suited to student traffic patterns than the old ones.

The new crosswalks will include "neckdowns," a feature that will extend the curb, making the street narrower for a student to cross and see beyond the parked cars to oncoming traffic. "[The neckdowns] add a visible difference to College Street so that traffic coming from the west on a country highway will be more aware that it is now a pedestrian area," said Benoit.

New lighting is also an important part of the renovations. "Hopefully the students will be attracted to the lights placed on the neckdowns at night," said Benoit. "That way students will be more likely to use the crosswalks and not jaywalk."

Another project that is well under way is the Ridgeline Woods housing project. Four buildings that will house 30 students are near completion. Three houses will be ready by January 1998, and the fourth will be ready for summer students. The Zoo, ADP, and Tavern are expected to move into these houses. The future occupants of the fourth house are currently undecided.

Speaking to the issue of Ridgeline Woods, Assistant Director of Residential Life Wendy Russell said, "We're aiming [to complete the project by] January, but it is a construction project and there could be unexpected delays." Russell commented that once in place, the new houses will help alleviate the pressure that the housing system currently faces.

Construction of a new ice rink is also scheduled for this year. "The permit is expected to clear any day now," said Benoit. "The ground could be broken as early as tomorrow." The new rink will have increased seating capacity, and the capability to have ice year-round. It will be linked to the natatorium.

Dave Barreda

New lights line College Street , in an effort to improve pedestrian safety.

McCardell opens school year with broad proposal

(continued from page 1)

wrote McCardell.

Within each common, students, faculty and staff would be encouraged to interact in a more informal basis, bridging the gap between academic and social life.

It is anticipated that by renovating the dormitories, making each equally appealing to all classes, students would remain in the original common selected for them throughout their four years. It is thought that if this plan should succeed, it will encourage more loyalty among the students toward their common.

A senior "mentor," along with an assistant would advise the students of their common and help to organize events. Additionally, each common would have an individual dean of students and a resident faculty member. McCardell foresees such a system as an integral means of promoting curricular peaks, as well as providing for more discussions and activities.

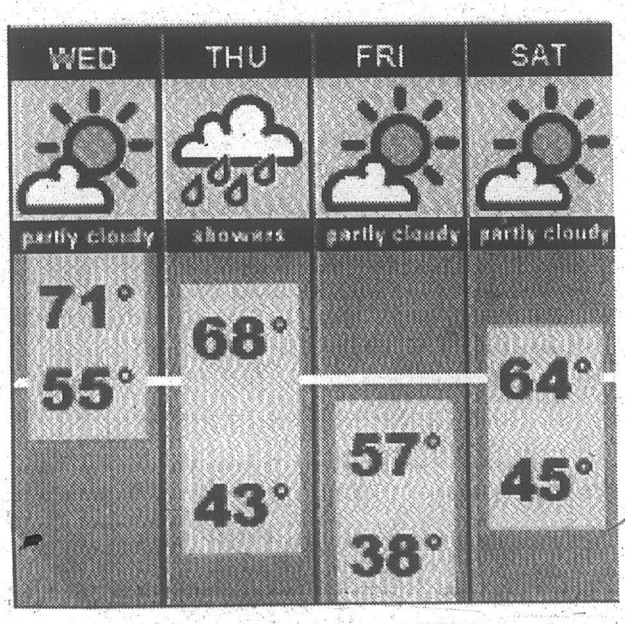
Part of McCardell's proposed residential design is a structural change to a central part of Middlebury: dining. "The more I thought about [centralized dining]...the more [I] came to the conclusion that this was an assumption that needed to be tested," said McCardell. "Since dining is so important a part of a student's day and since so much of an education that takes place outside of class is apt to take place at meal time, simply to assume that 2,350 students dining together under one roof comes close to making good on [Middlebury's] special claims... was in my judgment a mistaken notion."

In keeping with McCardell's views, if the new commons system is initiated, each will include a dining facility, where students would be encouraged to eat the majority of their meals.

Students would not be limited to eating only at their common, however, as McCardell intends to sustain cross-commons interaction similar to that which is currently in place.

At the trustee retreat this weekend, which includes members of the Student Government Association's Executive Board, participants will review the plan as it exists presently. During the course of the year, McCardell has said he will fine-tune his vision through a series of community discussions. Ultimately, though, it will be the trustees who, in May 1998, have the final authority to put into effect a new system that will significantly alter residential life at Middlebury.

Four day forecast



Courtesy of Intellicast at http://www.intellicast.com

PICTURE THIS:
PASTA
Pulsating Pizza
Killer Calzones
GRINDERS
GOAGIES
Green Peppers Restaurant
Succulent Salads
388-3164 Grand Union Plaza * Middlebury, VT.

Welcome Back...
Why not Take the Hassle Out of College this year?...
Copies with 24 Hour Access & Full Color Xerox Laser Copies
Private Mailbox & Parcel Receiving & All Shipping Services
Convenient Parking & Free Parcel Pickup Service

FREE COPIES
Buy one copy get one free. Limit 100 per customer on 8-1/2" x 11" or 8-1/2" x 14" black on white paper.
MBE MAIL BOXES ETC.
Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Restrictions apply. This offer is not good in combination with any other offer. Valid at this and participating locations. Offer expires 12/31/97

FREE MAILBOX SERVICE
Get three months free mailbox service with purchase of six months. New customers only.
MBE MAIL BOXES ETC.

40 Court Street (Rte 7 South) Middlebury
Tel. 388-3020 Fax. 388-3008
8am - 7 pm Weekdays 9am - 5pm Saturdays

Housing crunch affects students again

News Analysis

Kate Barch
Staff Writer

Established as a residential college, Middlebury is now challenged to uphold its promise to provide living quarters for just under 2,100 students, who are guaranteed housing this academic year.

"Crunch" is the most frequent sound bite out of the Residential Life office, where Assistant Director Wendy Russell admits "there is no room to move" for the college's students, who have filled every bed on and off campus, causing a more serious "housing crunch" than in years past.

"It's no secret that the residential sector of the college must operate like a business, so every bed must be filled," says Russell, who added that the college likes to maintain a "cushion" of 10 to 20 beds to allow for change throughout the year.

This fall, however, there was little padding left when a large entering class of 574 students moved into the rooms reserved for first-years. President McCardell's steadfast promise that lounges would remain as lounges and not as bedrooms has enhanced the social space in many first-year dorms, though the disparity between the number of students and beds must be made up somewhere. The inconveniences that accompany the housing shortage have primarily fallen to sophomores, some of whom have found themselves in social houses such as Zoo and ADP where they are not members.

"It was disappointing that our membership didn't fill the house," said Zoo President Jon Elder '98. "But, having non-members in the house has actually spiced up the atmosphere and things have gone smoothly."

Elder is not the only one with a positive outlook on the unfortunate situation. Many seniors returned to Middlebury only to hear that more off-campus housing alternatives had been made available during the latter portion of the summer. Here too there is a catch. Though there is not an existing town ordinance which limits the number of students living off campus, there is what Russell calls an "informal" agreement with the townspeople.

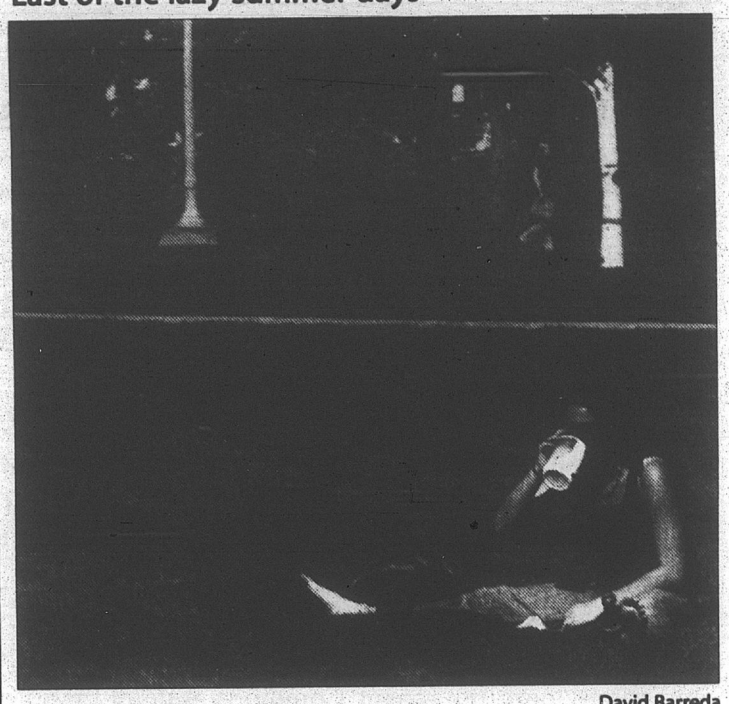
In previous years, noise complaints and other issues have complicated the situation of Middlebury students residing beyond the campus boundaries.

The Residential Life staff must now take into consideration the economics of acquiring more off-campus homes and apartments. As demand increases, Russell and others fear that rent in Middlebury and the surrounding areas may skyrocket, making it foolish for the college to continue sponsoring these upperclassmen options.

Above all, Middlebury looks to alleviate the strain placed on its existing housing when overcrowding occurs and to ensure that students are somehow able to feel a part of the residential atmosphere of the College.

Participate in the Student Activities Fair on Monday, Sept. 15 from 6:30-7:30p.m. on the McCullough floor.

Last of the lazy summer days



David Barreda

Savoring the last moments of summer, *a student lounges on the lawn outside of the Chateau before going to class.*

SGA outlines its year-long agenda

(continued from page 1)

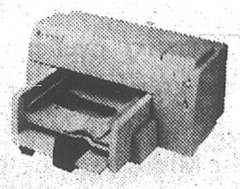
main goals this year is to plan more weekend activities for students. "I want students to see the college as a fun and safe place to spend the weekend," said Stratton. In conjunction with this, he plans to clear up what he perceives as misconceptions about the general alcohol policy.

Also on the SGA's docket are plans to re-evaluate some of its current committees as well as the Commons system.

The cornerstone of Stratton's administration will be to open the lines of communication between the SGA and the students, in an attempt to make the system more effective. "We want to find out what's important to students so that we can change things in a positive way, without students feeling that the administration is just making changes without student input," said Cucci. " I hope people are excited about being involved. The SGA is a good resource for all types of issues or organizations at Middlebury."

SGA officers strongly encourage the student body to work closely with them during the year. Positions for Community Council, Judicial Review Board, and Judicial Council are still available. Applications can be picked up in the SGA office and are due by Sept. 17. Applications for other committees yet to be announced will be due Sept. 24. Elections will be held on Oct. 1.

YOU DEMAND POWER, SPEED, AND MOBILITY.

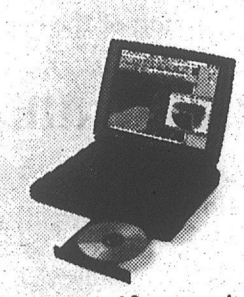


Save another $50 cash back*

Color StyleWriter® 4500
Now $315** BEFORE REBATE

$300 cash back*

Power Macintosh® 6500/250
32/4GB/12XCD/Multiple Scan 15AV
L2/Zip Drive/Ethernet/Kbd
Now $2,419** BEFORE REBATE



$200 cash back*

PowerBook® 1400cs/133
16/1GB/8XCD/L2/11.3" DSTN display
Now $2,189** BEFORE REBATE

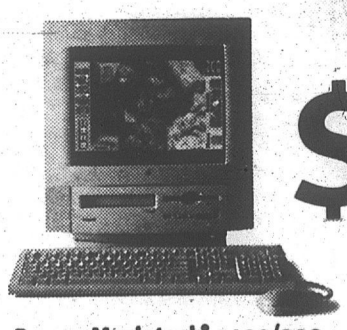
got it yet?

WANT SOME CASH TO GO WITH THAT?

Now is the right time to get an Apple Power Macintosh or PowerBook. Because in addition to getting the computer that lets you do more than you can imagine, you can save big time. For a limited time, students are eligible for special cash rebates.

*This is a limited time rebate coupon offer. See your Apple campus reseller today for complete details.

Middlebury College Computer Sales & Service
Located in Lower Proctor Hall
Hours: Monday-Friday 10-noon & 1pm-4pm
(802) 443-5005 • http://www.middlebury.edu/~compsale



$100 cash back*

Power Macintosh® 5400/200
32/1.6GB/12XCD/Built-in display/Ethernet/Kbd
Now $1,795** BEFORE REBATE

**Offer expires October 10, 1997. ©1997 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Mac, Macintosh, PowerBook, Power Macintosh and StyleWriter are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. OneScanner and QuickTake are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Apple mail-in rebate offer valid from July 12, 1997 through October 10, 1997, while supplies last and subject to availability. Void where prohibited by law. See participating reseller for further rules and details. All Macintosh computers are designed to be accessible to individuals with disability. To learn more (U.S. only), call 800-600-7808 or TTY 800-755-0601.

Editorial

An Un - Common System

This summer while construction was beginning on such projects as Bicentennial Hall and Ridgeline Woods, construction of another sort was coming to fruition in college administrative offices and board rooms. Prompted by the inevitable and comprehensive changes recommended through the Facilities Plan, in conjunction with the findings of the Commons Review Committee and an ever-increasing enrollment, President McCardell began constructing a vision for Middlebury's future. A vision which paradoxically at once stands to secure our small college atmosphere in the face of continuing expansion, while simultaneously inviting the threat of losing the small college.

This vision is nothing less than a total reconfiguration of Middlebury College, based primarily on the idea of a revitalized and vastly more prominent Commons system. President McCardell has argued that this system will enable Middlebury to return to the fundamental premises that the college has endorsed for 200 years. But at what cost?

For 200 years Middlebury has been the epitome of the small liberal arts college. It is for this very reason that students have continued to fight for acceptance to the college year after year. During this same time decisions were continually made to expand the student body. Until now, what was once the archetype of the small liberal arts college is reduced to "offering the *feel* of a small liberal arts college."

The claim has been made that this plan is a way for Middlebury to return to its original founding vision. The Plan ultimately seems to represent a way for the college to have its 200th birthday cake and eat it too. The Board of Trustees could continue increasing enrollment while telling alumni, current students , and perspective students that the college will maintain all the same qualities for which it has long been know.

There should be little doubt that the proposal is both progressive and imaginative. Even in its most modest conception such a system would greatly improve many aspects of student life. Furthermore, if expansion of the student body continues at the present pace, the Middlebury of the future will in many ways be unrecognizable to past and present students any way. Under such circumstances this proposal might be the only way to at least infuse some of the founders fundamental ideals into the institution of the future. But the sad fact remains that such an institution, though perhaps promising and necessary, will not be, as some believe, a more perfect vision of the original.

The Middlebury Campus

Editor in Chief
Darren Bloch

Managing Editor
Josh Irwin

Business Manager
Ted Broadwater

Advertising Manager
Frank Pandolfe

Production Manager
Misha Coggeshal-Burr

Associate Editors
Lele Moore
Aditya Raval

News Editors
Sherry Schwarz
Megan Sowards

Features Editors
Emily Manning
Maya Thiagarajan

Arts Editors
Thaya Brook
David Keeling

Opinions Editors
Ben Block
Jennifer Jensen

Sports Editors
Christian Botting
Chris Morgan

In Depth Editors
Wells Chandler
Shannon Shaper

Photo Editor
David Barreda

Copy Editor ..... Jay Dealy
Copy Editor ..... Kristin Arends

Circulation Manager ... Ted Broadwater

The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published in Middlebury, Vermont by the Student Government Association of Middlebury College. Publication is every Wednesday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on an Apple Macintosh network running QuarkXPress 3.32, and is printed by Denton Publications, Inc. at Elizabethtown, New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is Friday at 5 p.m. for the next week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753. Office phone: (802) 443-5736. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Manager. Address all letters to the editor to the Opinions Editor. The Middlebury Campus will not accept or print anonymous letters and reserves the right to edit all Opinions letters. The opinions expressed in the Opinions section, reviews and other commentary, are views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Middlebury Campus. First class postage paid at Middlebury, VT 05753. Subscription rate: $45 per year or $25 per semester within the United States; $50 per year or $30 per semester overseas.

WHY ARE YOO GUYS IN SUCH A HURRY?
C'MON, YOO'VE GOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!
WHATTAYAMEAN?
WHEN YOO HAVEN'T YET FALLEN BEHIND WITH WORK
YOO CAN STILL WAKE UP FOR THOSE 8 O'CLOCKS...
...WELL MAYBE NOT...
BUT THE FOOD IN PROCTOR'S STILL FRESH...
YOO'RE NOT SICK OF NATTY LIGHT...
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...
ALL THE CUTE FRESHMEN ARE STILL SINGLE!
SHANICK 10.97

Letters to the Editor

Annual opening address held at inopportune time

Monica Dean '99.5

President McCardell's annual opening-of-the-year address was held on Monday, September 8 at 12:30 pm. Although it lived up to its name, the address need not have been delivered in the midst of the first day of classes, when students were buying books and enjoying a lunch break with old friends.

This speech would still be deemed "opening-of-the-year address" were it held on the evening of any day other than Monday during the first week of school.

One would like to think that an institution of higher learning, especially one which claims to have its students' desires and educational interests at the core of its decisions would not arrange for its president to give one of the most important speeches of the year at a time clearly unsuited to meet the needs and schedules of students. I do not mean to suggest by this statement that faculty are not a part of our "community." Undoubtedly, the faculty is a crucial part of Middlebury, however, it was privy to the same information McCardell shared on Monday a week earlier, on Friday, September 5, at its faculty meeting. Therefore, the faculty need not have been a primary concern when McCardell and the administration were deciding the best time to address the College.

McCardell's aspirations for the future of residential life at Middlebury are revolutionary for this school and should not be taken lightly, that is to say, without much skepticism and input on the part of students. McCardell himself implied that he would encourage student participation in the reshaping of Middlebury when he said that if the facilities plan is approved, there will be a thousand and one details to be worked out, and it will properly fall to this community over the course of the year to have those discussions."

If McCardell and the administration sincerely want the students of this college to consider his plans seriously and to work with him in order to achieve the goals he laid out on Monday, then I suggest he find a better time to deliver the commendable opening-of-the-year speech which he set into precedent just a few years ago.

It would seem that at seven o'clock in the evening, a few days into classes, when the chaos of coming back to school has subsided, more students and, perhaps, more townspeople would be apt to enter Mead Chapel to learn where Middlebury is heading, who is taking it there, and why we students should be going along as an active, not a passive, public.

Stratton informs the student body on SGA standing

Bryan Stratton '98

Welcome back. This is to be the first of a (hopefully) weekly column which will provide my insights into what the SGA is up to and how what I'm doing affects what you're doing. Notice I use the pronoun "I." This isn't because I'm a power-mad dictator; it's because I don't want to speak for any member of SGA other than myself. We're a very diverse group of people this year, and generalizations just will not do. So first, let me tell you what I did, then I'll tell you what I'm doing, and then I'll tell you what I plan to do.

This summer, I spent my free time teaching computer classes to adult students and DJ-ing at the only strip club in Vermont, Planet Rock, in my hometown of Barre. I figured I wasn't sleazy enough for politics, and, in my opinion, it was better preparation for my current role than any number of workshops or internships could have been. I also managed to drive to Middlebury at least once a week for most of the summer and make a lot of phone calls, many of which were not returned.

Since I've been back, the SGA Executive Committee has met four or five times (depending on when you read this), has had dinner with President McCardell, has been oriented by Francy Magee, has argued, has laughed, and has generally decided that, yes, we can do this, and, yes, we can do it differently and better than anyone who has come before us.

I did have to make two small changes to the Executive Committee: Jason Oleet '00 was appointed Secretary of Representatives after the original appointment period. Also, Stephanie Hunt '99 decided that she was unable to fill the role of Recording Secretary/Secretary of Publicity for personal reasons, so the title was offered to Irakly Areshidze '00, and he sold his soul and accepted.

As for the upcoming year, the SGA have a whole host of issues to tackle, some of them by our own choice, some of them not. A good example of the latter is the proposed commons-based residential system which President

(see Stratton, page 5)

McCardell's commons proposal will unite students

This article will present a four-fold categorization of the present intellectual state of the Middlebury College student body so as to facilitate our consideration of some of the benefits of President McCardell's ambitious commons proposal.

Damjan de Krnjevic-Miscovic '98

I posit that most, if not all, students fit into one of the following four categories of intellectual performance: The careful and thoughtful student I should wish to call those who belong to my first category . The opinionated rhetorician is how I should term my second category. The unknowingly anti-contemplative student I submit as a name for my third category, while the purposefully anti-contemplative student makes up my fourth category.

The most undignified category to belong to is the fourth one. By most undignified I mean that since each one of us has chosen to attend and live in an excellent institution of higher learning, and that since part of the dignity of attending college is for each one of us to take ourselves, our thoughts and our actions seriously, not to do so by design is self-destructive. In fact, the purposeful self-rejection of one's own intellectual development is quite worrisome. One should seriously reconsider what college is about if the primary reason for being here is non-academic. By coming to college, each one of us acknowledges that the cultivation of the mind is most important to us. What if a student had come to college to find himself? Well, finding yourself intellectually will certainly not happen if you go about it by spending more time in the social houses than in the classroom and the library over the last three years. That is pathetic. Not that there are not worthwhile events and activities that go on in social houses, but no one would seriously argue that any of these activities cultivate the mind in any meaningful way.

The third category of students, those who unknowingly reject the activity of contemplation, are, in a sense, the most important to understand. I group many different sorts of people in this category. It is possible that such students have not considered the fact that there might be some subjects, some academic majors, which are more intellectually important than others. Or they have opted to specialize too early, comporting themselves as though they attended a university. They often have no time, until perhaps the spring semester of their senior year, to take a class that is much beyond their narrow scope of inquiry. Students such as these take their academic studies very seriously, but perhaps do so in too narrow a way. Often, to fulfill requirements, they take fluffy classes so as to not distract themselves too rigorously from their main discipline. I see this as a rejection of contemplation, of sorts, because such students, ambitious to be sure, do not take the time to think about why it is that they are actually pursuing their chosen discipline, since they are too engaged in it. The opportunity for critical self-examination becomes remote. These students are, for all intents and purposes, intellectually both hungry and satisfied. Yet they satisfy their hunger, all too often, with tasty fast food, unaware of the other delicacies being offered to them.

The second category of students are those who have lots of views on lots of subjects. Most are well-read, and quite articulate. They know how to use words in very clever ways. They write very good essays and then boast about how easy it is to get a good grade with little effort. In conversation, they often speak for long periods of time without actually saying anything, quoting this thinker and that scientist. You could call them "mental masturbators." Such students argue for the sake of arguing, both in class and outside of it. Or they just spit out reflections of other people which they have read somewhere, not really thinking these arguments through. They do not have, or chose to ignore, the knowledge that contemplation is not mere sport. College for them, in other words, is a place to fine-tune their rhetorical skills through the acquisition of a good library. They engage in contemplation not for its own sake, but rather for the sake of their own over-estimated self-glorification. In the best case scenario, such students become gadflies; in the worst case scenario, they become nuisances, perhaps going on to become what the man on the street refers to as an "intellectual."

The first category is made up of thoughtful students, of those who have sought liberation from the conventions of their surroundings, who have actively sought to bring about their own enlightenment thought contemplative activity. No one, or at least not many, come to college with the knowledge that he or she is here to be turned away from the popular ideas and assumptions of the society in which he lives, so as to be able to truly think without prejudice. That would be assuming too much. Some are fortunate to have parents or teachers who instill these viewpoints to their children before college, but most are not. Thus, these students acquire, over the course of four years, the ability to conduct themselves, intellectually speaking, on a level that goes beyond what present-day society deems to be the greatest human achievement. Such students become cultured, in the most profound sense of the term. They think, they contemplate, they become informed citizens, and, regardless of what they do in their lives, they keep a certain refinement that others do not, will never, and do not wish to have. These students humble themselves before the thoughts of

(see Revolutionary, page 6)

Education needed to guard Republic

On Monday, during his annual Opening of the School Year Address, President McCardell declared that Middlebury today, at the time when it is doing better

Irakly Areshidze '00

than it has ever before, has an opportunity to determine exactly what kind of college it wants to be. He focused this discussion of the college's future on his proposal for a new residential life system which calls for continuous commons housing, i.e. students would end up spending most of their college career living in one commons. In addition, the plan calls for decentralized dining and more faculty participation to foster greater faculty-student interaction.

In short, under this vision the commons, a number of smaller replicas of Middlebury College, will become the central component of life at Middlebury, much like Colleges are at Yale and Houses are at Harvard. President McCardell believes that such a residential system will make Middlebury more like what it claims to be.

Over the course of the year, this community shall engage in an extensive discussion of this proposal. This debate is timely. President McCardell and the rest of the administration deserve a great deal of praise for the work that they did on this subject over the course of this summer in setting up the discussion that we are about to embark on. However, since the debate is still being shaped and the battle grounds have not yet been drawn, I would like to introduce another dimension to the question of what kind of college do we want Middlebury to be.

This dimension comes from the perspective that the education we receive here has a purpose. In other words, once we receive our diplomas we must have learned "something" in addition to our degree. If this is true, than the goal of any changes must be to make Middlebury better at instilling in its students this "something".

It is often claimed that the United States is a democracy. This is probably true; however, the proper definition for the American system of government is a republic — this goes back to Madison and *Federalist Paper* #10. By accepting the notion that this nation is a republic, one is forced to confront a claim that for a republic to survive very special citizens are necessary. Lorraine and Tom Pangle, in their book The Learning of Liberty, write that traditionally, "republics ... require an extraordinary degree of self-spiritedness, self-restraint, and practical wisdom in their citizens." These qualities that the Pangles' describe are that "something" that we must learn here at Middlebury.

The only means of fostering these qualities in people is through education within special communities whose purpose is to foster them.

What does it mean to be a republican citizen with "self-spiritedness, self-restraint, and practical wisdom"? Let me suggest that these are men who believe that they can make a difference, who think of others before they think of themselves and who understand that citizenship comes with certain responsibilities which must be kept.

William Faulkner, in his Noble Prize acceptance speech, described certain people who "are in conflict with their hearts." These Faulkner characters also remind me of republican citizens, men who care about the state of their hearts and the state of their souls.

Towards the end of one of my favorite books, *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok, one finds the following passage: "We [human beings] live less than the time it takes to blink an eye, if we measure our lives against the eternity. So it may be asked what is there to a human life. There is so much pain in the world. What does it mean to have to suffer so much if our lives are nothing more than a blink of an eye? I learned a long time ago that a blink of an eye in itself is nothing. But the eye that blinks, that is something. A span of life is nothing. But the man who lives that span, he is something. He can fill that tiny span with meaning, so its quality is immeasurable though its quantity may be insignificant." Therefore, we could choose to lead our lives as if they were a blink of an eye and do nothing or we could spend our lives blinking our eyes. Republican citizens must do a lot of blinking!

If the purpose of Middlebury's education is to train republican citizens, then we must approach the question of residential life by keeping in mind the fact that the experience offered here must teach all students some very important things. Liberal education (traditionally understood) is a main component of such training. However, education of citizens must take place all the time. President McCardell is dead right that education should take place around the clock. That is why the shape of the entire community becomes very important.

I am not sure what the best education community is. There is a whole year ahead of us to contemplate this question. However, in this first letter of the year, I wanted to introduce the reader to the possibility that the discussion of the administration's residential life proposal has much more far reaching consequences than where we eat and live. It is because of these far reaching consequences that the "faculty involvement in student life" portion of the proposal is the most important element of the plan.

This community is responsible for raising citizens who can help preserve a republic which is very fragile. That is much more important than the positive and negative effects of President McCardell's plan.

Stratton updates students about SGA proceedings

(continued from page 4)

McCardell has proposed to the trustees. Without going into more detail than I'm allowed (everything I've received has been stamped "CONFIDENTIAL"), the plan includes some broad, sweeping changes to Middlebury College, some of which I agree with, some of which I don't, and many which are still in so much of a formative stage that it's impossible to pass a judgment on them either way.

A specific goal I personally will push the SGA to work towards is the resolution of the many and tangled issues of campus safety.

A specific goal I personally will push the SGA to work towards is the resolution of the many and tangled issues of campus safety. Beyond better lighting and emergency phones in the parking lots , both of which I strongly advocate, I would like to see the Campus revive itself safely.

Last year's Senior Week was the least active I've ever seen this campus. This year's first weekend before classes was even worse. Does this mean that, as a unit, the Middlebury College student body decided to quit drinking, quit partying and get a good night's sleep before their rigorous academic life began anew? Or does it imply that there was a lot of binge drinking in individual students' rooms and general merriment off-campus, both of which are not practically within Security's power to control? What is keeping students from having a good time on campus? I think you're oversimplifying the matter if you believe any one force or side of the issue is responsible for the result. And, of course, no one believes it is "their" fault. Which brings me to my next point:

If there is one thing I would like to see achieved this year by the SGA, it is to develop and encourage communication between students, faculty, and administration. Every year, it seems like the campus divides itself up into smaller and smaller groups. The idea of a "student body" is almost a non-issue right now. The SGA is the students' best bet at sending any message to the administration or the trustees, but that message will not be taken seriously by anyone in authority if only 10% of the campus stands behind it.

We've got elections coming up on October first. We've got committee appointment applications due on the 17th (for Community Council, Judicial Committee and Judicial Review Board) and the 24th (for anything else). Run for representative of whatever it is you're a representative of. Get yourself appointed to a committee if you'd rather not make a public spectacle of yourself. If you don't do either of those, just vote. Only 63% of the campus voted in the Presidential/Vice-Presidential elections. We've got a long way to go.

Feedback is always welcome and can be sent to Box 3362 or to stratton@panther.middlebury.edu

Contemporary pop culture taken over by corporate America

Noah Bruce '98

This summer I was chatting with my father's friend when he asked me if I thought "cool was dead." I think he got this idea by reading a *Time* Magazine special on Generation X or some such trash, but it occurred to me that in a very real way maybe his question held water.

I thought about every time I saw a TV commercial that used a rock song to sell some product; I thought about the Beatles "Revolution" used in that Nike ad; I thought about the Stones' "Start Me Up" in the Microsoft Windows '95 commercial; I thought about Kurt Vonnegut doing his straight-faced pitch for American Express.

In order to understand how these ads pervert the cool we must first define what cool is.

I was reading a progressive magazine that said that cool was born when the first slave figured out how to make chitlings from the master's discarded meat. I'm not sure this is true (George Clinton and Lao-Tzu ensure us that funk is inherent in the nature of the universe), but I like the definition anyway because it gets to the heart of the matter. It says that cool is to be found outside the values and beliefs of the mainstream culture. Muhammad Ali was cool; Michael Moore, director of the movie "Roger and Me", was cool; the Populist Party was cool. St. Francis was cool; the Beat Generation was cool; John Coltrane was cool. Lawrence Welk was not cool and neither was Johnny Carson, although he could be funny. Of course, simply being outside the mainstream does not necessarily make one cool, as Charles Manson and Ross Perot clearly show.

So when Kurt Vonnegut or the Rolling Stones, both of whom originated as cool anti-mainstream artists, are used by corporate America to whet the consumer's appetite for product I feel pimped. I feel that someone sold out.

And there is no worse or greater engine of this selling out and pimping of culture than MTV. I've read the MTV hater's homepage and most of the articles are laments about the now famous lack of music on music television. One outraged fellow proceeded to compare MTV to the Hitler Youth. These guys either miss the point or are simply nuts. MTV has, however, succeeded in dealing a serious wound to cool.

MTV seeks to merge the cool (youth music and culture) with the uncool (corporate America). At this stage of American history it is impossible that these two institutions can coexist happily in the same entity. When MTV came on the scene it seemed cool. Most of the air time was taken up by videos. The MTV VJs Martha Quinn, Adam Curry (despite the glam rock hair) and Kurt Loder seemed down to earth and real. MTV News was an informative source for updates on the music world and not just hype for Fleetwood Mack's reunion tour. Soon the Headbanger's Ball and YO! MTV Raps with Ed Lover and Dr. Dre (not Snoop's buddy) were added, continuing the trend to market popular, yet not middle American youth music.

I don't know if MTV ever meant to be a true source for the promotion of youth culture or if money was the sole goal from day one, but since then things went wrong. Watch the channel for five minutes and you will see that no matter how many times Bill Bellamy says he's "keeping it real," no one at the station really is. The entire programming lineup is a setup to market their prefabricated culture. That is, the station is not attempting to find something new and cool, says some undiscovered performer in some club; rather station executives, with a 13-16 year old target audience in mind, hand pick some good looking and appropriately dressed young people (body piercing, shades, baggy clothes), arm them with some catch '90's slang ("Yo! Yo! Yø!," "We just chillin/hanging, "Ain't nothing but a party y'all") and thrust them in front of a camera to host the Grind or the MTV Beach House.

But the whole thing reeks of fakery and awfulness. And what's worst of all is that a good chunk of the young kids in this country, instead of saying "Man, this isn't what we're all about," say "Yeah bro, that's what I want to be, that's who I have to be, I'm going out to buy a Puff Daddy CD right now." It's like high school conformity on an international level.

Perhaps the most embarrassing show of all is Singled Out: 50 contestants are whittled down to three as they are weeded out on the basis of hair length, kissing styles and butt size. Finally three become one, and when the guy sitting with his back to the contestants finally meets his date he either joyfully hugs her or gives the camera squeamish face (if she doesn't measure up) and embraces her at arms length. Then the two lucky kids dance to some real hip dance music. The show used to be hosted by Jenny McCarthy, once a Playboy Centerfold, now a household name, who is the epitome of carbon-copy beauty and air-headedness so genuine that its integrity is the one thing on the show beyond reproach.

Today Jenny is a VJ herself, and her replacement Carmen Electra, also an ex-centerfold, is forced to try to fill Jenny's mighty big shoes or, should I say, cups.

So maybe cool is dead, or maybe its just slumbering in independent labels and in blues clubs and on college radio stations. Maybe some rock star will start a revolt against MTV but right now even the young stars who seem to be more substance than hype (Wu-Tang Clan, Beck) support the channel. Maybe they can't afford not to. And that is sad because it means that corporate America, in the guise of MTV, has managed to pose itself as the cool. And they have convinced millions of MTV watchers that this is true.

Maybe if I was my dad's age and I flipped on MTV, I would wonder if cool was dead too.

Student desires later start to semester

Dave Riedel '98

Starting the college semester on a Wednesday would seem to make a lot more sense than the current schedule which has us beginning on a Monday. The midweek start date would make a number of things much easier for students, faculty and staff.

The idea for this change in Middlebury's current schedule is not novel but is based on the precedent of several other colleges with which I am familiar. William and Mary (from which I transferred to Middlebury), Dickinson and Bucknell all utilize a Wednesday as the official beginning of classes for each semester. This is much easier on the students of these schools than would be a Monday start.

Many students at Middlebury travel long distances to school every year, and a lot do so by car there are a multitude of cars in the lots from this country's western —states as well as its southernmost ones. The students who drive several days and in some cases across time zones are in no way settled in and ready to begin classes on a Monday when they just arrived the previous Saturday. Every summer, the residential life staff sends out a warning to all the students describing the problems created by early move-ins. By starting school on a Wednesday, this problem would be solved as students would arrive on the weekend (which would be 2 or 3 full days before classes) and could settle in instead of coming 2 or 3 days before Monday (a Thursday or Friday) and creating problems for the cleaning and maintenance crews.

There are numerous other advantages to starting on a Wednesday. When we arrive on the weekend prior to a Monday start of classes, all college offices are of course closed. What happens if one's phone is not hooked up? What happens if one needs to speak to a dean about two conflicting, essential classes in his schedule that start at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning? What happens if one needs to speak with his advisor about taking a certain class? What if someone were abroad and she needs to get permission from a professor to enroll in a new class? What if I have to take care of a financial matter? All of these situations could be easily handled on the Monday and Tuesday preceding classes instead of having us literally running around between classes to accomplish them only to find that professor in class, or that dean in a meeting, or the line at the cashier all the way down the hall. An awful lot of the first-week stress could thereby be eliminated.

Speaking of stress, has anyone ever attempted to purchase their books during the first few days of classes? Lower Proctor is an absolute madhouse.

Wouldn't it be much easier on the students and the staff if the bookstore would be open the two days prior to classes? That way, people could buy their books at their own leisure and have them before classes started. This method would be much more conducive to getting things accomplished.

By starting classes on a Wednesday, so much stress would be relieved, so many problems would be eliminated and so many people would be so much happier. I could list probably a dozen more reasons, but time and space are at a premium. A simple alteration in the current schedule would be all that is necessary to solve a variety of problems at Middlebury.

Interfaith Center hopes to serve student spiritual needs

Kate Barch '98

As a rather frantic, and soon-to-be rewarding semester begins, peace of mind and spiritual wellness seem low on the list of priorities. I am beginning my fourth year at a school that has offered me a chance to be a leader, a follower, a planner and an over-committed participant in campus life. I am a typical Middlebury student.

Twenty-six years ago Steven Rockefeller envisioned an Interfaith Center as a haven for all students seeking to share their faith, learn about their neighbor's beliefs or take part in cultural meals and service opportunities sponsored by student organizations. In short, it was to be a peaceful, reflective place. Whether far from the maddening crowd, or right at it's core, the Interfaith Center of Rockefeller's imagination would be a gathering place to further the sense of community on a campus with growing diversity, and might provide a forum to discuss the divisions that accompany it.

The college's vision of a residential commons system will address the developing needs of a "small" college gone "big." Partitioning the campus may in fact benefit students' social lives as a spirited atmosphere and good-humored competitiveness arise out of a residential commons system. However, a "divide and conquer" strategy can't resolve every inadequacy in Middlebury life.

There are some aspects of student life that are best if shared and understood by the larger community.

An Interfaith Center, proposed again last year and given second-level priority on the facilities plan, could be an exciting means of building community on and off the Middlebury campus in the coming years of growth.

Developing a strong commons system and a more idyllic campus life shouldn't mean that we become more detached from one another or from the town that surrounds us. I hope that the concept of an Interfaith Center will receive significant attention in the upcoming academic year and that the sharing of faiths and service to Middlebury the college and the town will encourage supporters of the proposal.

Revolutionary proposal will unite community

(continued from page 5)

those more intelligent than they. They understand that words have a sensual pleasure in and of themselves and should not be spoken but for good reason. They come to understand that there are true standards to human conduct without being self-confident enough to believe that they know or will ever know what those standards actually are. Thus they always view everything in the world with critical openness, with a hope that they will come to truly understand whatever it is that they are contemplating. And most importantly, they do all of these things for themselves, not for others, not necessarily to become "leaders," and certainly not for the sake of appearance.

Now this new commons proposal will require of students to surrender some of their freedom to choose. One student might not be able to live in Pearsons, another might be encouraged to eat in one dining hall over another, a third student might be asked to have a civilized conversation over dinner with a faculty member. What awful freedoms to surrender.

In return, students will become part of an institutional atmosphere which shall have as its goal to provide an environment where more thoughtful choices can be made — both academically and socially. I illustrate with examples: A student who belongs to the fourth category would have enough time to "find himself" and develop his mind in the proper way. A third category student might be directed to sit at a table with fellow students who have very different academic interests. He would get to know them, and might even begin to like some of them. In this way, he could still specialize as early as he felt that he had to, but he could get a more rounded education, albeit outside the classroom.

A second category student might have his outlandish statements challenged a little more seriously, and might over time become a more serious human being. And finally, a first category student would thrive even more in an atmosphere where the probability of finding more like-minded people could conceivably increase.

So I say again, the new commons proposal is quite ambitious. Suffice it to say, for the moment, that the intellectual seriousness status quo on this campus is not as good as it could be, and that this plan would improve it to a level comparable to some of the truly world-class institutions of higher leaning in this country.

A more intense intellectual life is the only thing that is missing. We have the faculty. Now all we need are the students.

New orientation design evokes mixed responses

By Maya Thiagarajan
Features Editor

This year's first-year student orientation program was designed differently from previous years. All students attended four days of on-campus orientation and then each student chose one of three different off-campus program for their last three days. Students chose between three options: MOO, or Middlebury Outdoor Orientation, "This is Vermont," and "Volunteer Preview." Unlike previous years where incoming students had to pay a separate amount for a special orientation trip such as MOO which preceded the regular on-campus orientation, this year all students were expected to participate in one of the three special programs and the fee for these trips was integrated into the overall fee for orientation.

The first-year students unanimously agreed that they would have preferred the off-campus orientation to precede the regular on-campus orientation for a variety of reasons. "I met a lot of really fun people during the regular orientation and it was hard to have to start over and meet a whole lot of new people during Volunteer Preview," said Ellen Guettler '01. Many students expressed negative sentiments about being given homework for their freshman seminar during the latter half of orientation. "Having homework really stressed us out and many people didn't attend all the activities because of it," said Guettler.

About fifty students opted for the Volunteer Preview Program. These students did a variety of different projects ranging from trail maintenance, reshelving books at Ilsley Library, cleaning up Gailer School and building a wheel chair ramp for an elderly lady. Julia Shreve '98, one of the student coordinators for the Volunteer Program said that she thought it went very well because there was a great need for volunteer work in the community this year . Mike Kerkorian '01 commented that he really enjoyed the projects and that the leaders were great, but he didn't particularly care for the name games they organized.

280 first year students decided to explore their new environment through the "This is Vermont" program. The activities offered to these students included a storytelling session by an Abenaki storyteller, a train ride to Burlington and a cruise on Lake Champlain. Tim Borarini '01 thought that "a lot of it was good because it helped you to get to meet more people." He also appreciated the fact that there were no overnight trips to Breadloaf because he enjoyed hanging out with all of his newfound friends on campus. However, he, along with many others, expressed negative sentiments about the Sugarbush Express train ride to Burlington. He said it was "too long and loud, and we would've preferred

(see Orientation, page 9)

Courtesy photo

Orientation offers choice between Volunteer Preview, This is Vermont, and the popular MOO.

Otter Creek brews up seasonal flavors

By Emily Manning
Features Editor

"Different" was the word that came to Otter Creek Brewery's happy-go-lucky representative David Ebner when I asked him to describe the Middlebury brewery, which was only founded in 1991. I was a little bit hesitant to believe him. I'm not much of a beer connoisseur, and when he offered me a sample of the company's new beer, Pale Ale, which was introduced in June, I had to turn it down. Yet, in the half-hour I spoke with Ebner he managed to convince me that everything from the taste of the brewery's ales to the company's recent experimentation with the brewing process is special.

"We're making beers that we wouldn't ordinarily bottle," said Ebner. "and this gives the public the opportunity to taste new and different beers and give us feedback."

In fact, Otter Creek Brewing has gone to great lengths by inviting the pubic to try their experimental brews through their Brewmaster's Choice Program, which was introduced in June of this year. The program involves the brewery making one batch of an experimental brew and releasing the new, never-tasted-before ale to the public every month. The ale is made available on tap at about a dozen locations across Vermont as well as in "growlers" at the brewery and a few other locations while supplies last. "We're making beers that we wouldn't ordinarily bottle," said Ebner. "and this gives the public the opportunity to taste new and different beers and give us feedback." Although the program is taking awhile to catch on, Ebner seemed certain it would be a success. As far as he knows, this is the first program of this type. In the upcoming months, Otter Creek Brewing will release both a scotch ale and a Belgian brown ale.

In June, Otter Creek Brewing also added a new, dry-hopped ale to its selection. According to Ebner, the recently introduced Pale Ale replaced Helles Alt Beer, which was not a big seller.

"We wanted to introduce a sweeter, lighter and easier drinking beer," he said. Pale Ale's sweet distinct taste is a result of adding the hops after the beer is brewed. According to Ebner, hops are "the spice" of the beer and often give the ale a distinct, bitter taste when added while the brew is boiling. By adding the hops during the fermentation process [which takes place after the brew boils], the resulting taste is sweet. According to Ebner, Pale Ale has been a great success.

Along with Pale Ale, Otter Creek Brewing sells two other year-round beers. Stovepipe Porter is a dark full-bodied beer while Cooper Ale is a medium-bodied amber brew. "Pale Ale complements those nicely to round out our selection," said Ebner.

Just last month Otter Creek reintroduced its craft-brewed Oktoberfest autumn ale, which was first

(see Otter Creek, page 8)

Drama and sweat characterize summer in factory

By Ramya Chari
Staff Writer

By the time this summer rolled around, my wish list had grown to the point at which I felt like I finally had to do some buying. So I set out to find the perfect job – that is, one which would guarantee a hefty check. After returning home from Middlebury, I searched the help-wanted ads of my local newspaper for hours on end.

One ad finally jumped out at me, promising a big money-making summer as well as job satisfaction, so I figured, why not?

I had never worked in a factory before and certainly had no idea what to expect.

When I appeared for my interview, I was seated with another hopeful applicant and given a series of tests. The first tested our dexterity by timing us as we stuck screws in little holes. I passed it easily and relaxed back in my chair thinking this would be a piece of cake.

But next came horror: a 50 question test that had to be done in 10 minutes. I thought being the sophisticated college student that I was, this would be no problem, but I was dead wrong. Flashbacks of high school SAT tests and college chemistry exams came pouring in, and I started getting nervous.

An hour later, and much to my relief we were welcomed as new employees. I was at the start of my career in the Thomas G. Faria Corporation.

The lady in charge made us feel like we were part of a very special organization. After all, we made parts for Harley Davidsons and Hummers. I was actually pretty proud to be a part of this firm, but my friends all seemed to think differently.

One friend, who will remain nameless, found my new job highly amusing. "Wait, so you're working in a SWEATSHOP?"

Of course, I defended myself as well as my new company. We weren't a sweatshop, not even a factory, but a manufacturing firm. I wasn't an assembly line worker, but part of a "production team."

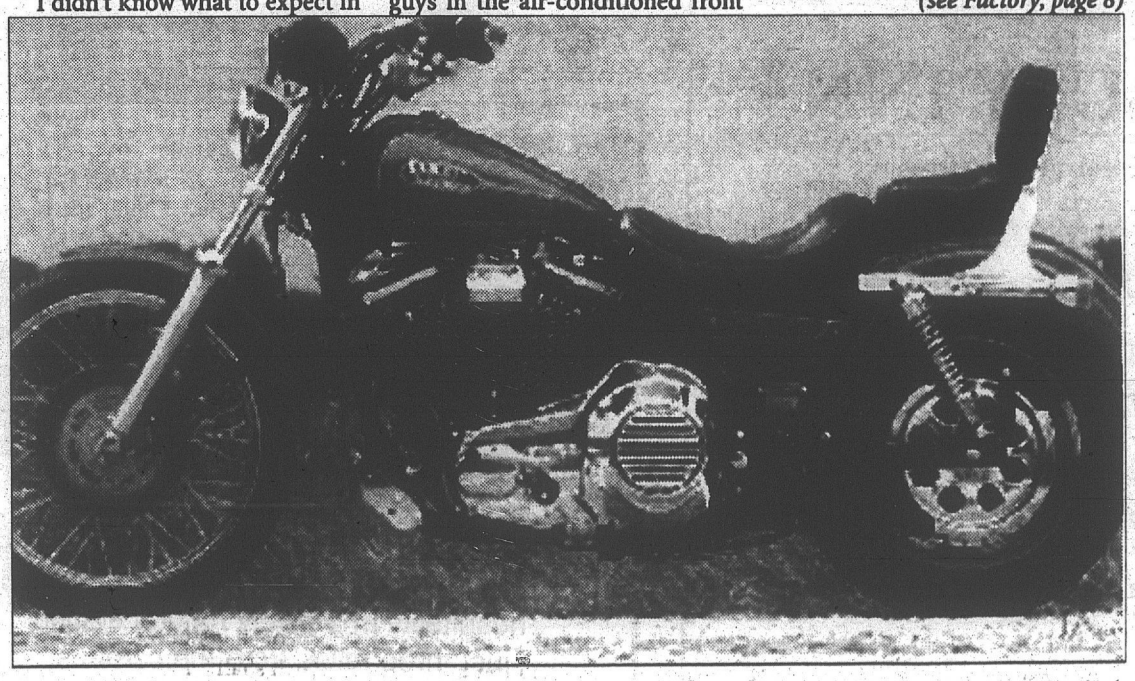
I didn't know what to expect in my first day, but I started by being introduced to everybody in my department. I was then told to assemble pointers. Eight hours and about 5,000 pointers later I was done with my first day at work. Not bad, I thought. However, I soon learned that repetition was the key word in this job.

Whatever work I did, I did over and over again for hours on end. Hours turned into days, days turned into weeks, weeks into months, and it was about 2 weeks into July when I decided that my job stank.

A week after I started, the big guys in the air-conditioned front office had decided we needed to work overtime with 10 hour days. This meant I had to be at work at 6 a.m., meaning I had to wake up at 4:30 a.m. and drive to work in the dark. Of course I couldn't quit now, not after I had defended my job to everybody, saying how it was such a great learning experience and how it helped me grow as a person. The truth was, it was really boring and I hated wearing those awful safety glasses all the time.

But the real reason I decided I had to stick out the whole summer was the people I had met. I was the

(see Factory, page 8)



Courtesy photo

Ramya Chari '99, gained experience from her summer job on a Harley Davidson production team. Repetition, she discovered, was the basis of her work.

Disabled people offer warm friendship

By Maya Thiagarajan
Features Editor

When I applied for a community friend with a disability, I wasn't really sure what I was getting myself into. The first few times I met Corrinne, I thought I would never be able to communicate with her. Her speech was unclear and it was hard to distinguish one word from the next when she spoke. She didn't speak much. She answered all of my questions with a monosyllabic yes or no. I kept wondering if she understood anything I said.

Corrinne is now 17-years-old. She has apraxia, a condition resulting from lesions in a certain part of the brain. The condition causes hearing and speech impairments and often slows both physical and mental growth.

Corrinne's disability does make her different from other teenagers in many ways, yet she wants a lot of the same things that they do. She likes school. She loves hanging out and eating pizza. She enjoys listening to music, and we often go to concerts together In addition, she is a very warm, affectionate person who wants her own friend. I have worked as Corrinne's "big-sister" for the last three years now, and have found it incredibly rewarding.

There are four other Middlebury students who have disabled friends. One of these students, Suzy Lopez '99 works with a young woman named Sarah Perry who has Down Syndrome, a mental disability resulting from an extra chromosome.

Sarah is 27-years-old and she lives on her own in her sister's garage apartment. She works at the Counselling Center cleaning bathrooms. She does about six different sports every year and just won a couple of gold medals at the International Special Olympic Games in Canada last winter, where she represented Vermont. As Lopez says, "Sarah is really amazing."

Lopez has been working with Sarah since January '96. Unfortunately, Sarah had to wait for a "big sister" for four years before Lopez finally volunteered. Sarah is a bit shy and she prefers to go out to eat or watch a movie with Lopez rather than hanging out on campus or eating at the dining halls. "It makes her a bit nervous to hang out in the dorm here, with so many people around," says Lopez.

"I think a lot of people are afraid of working with someone who is disabled because they are different, they have different abilities," comments Lopez. "However, I find working with Sarah is really easy, probably a lot less demanding than working with a little kid and definitely as satisfying."

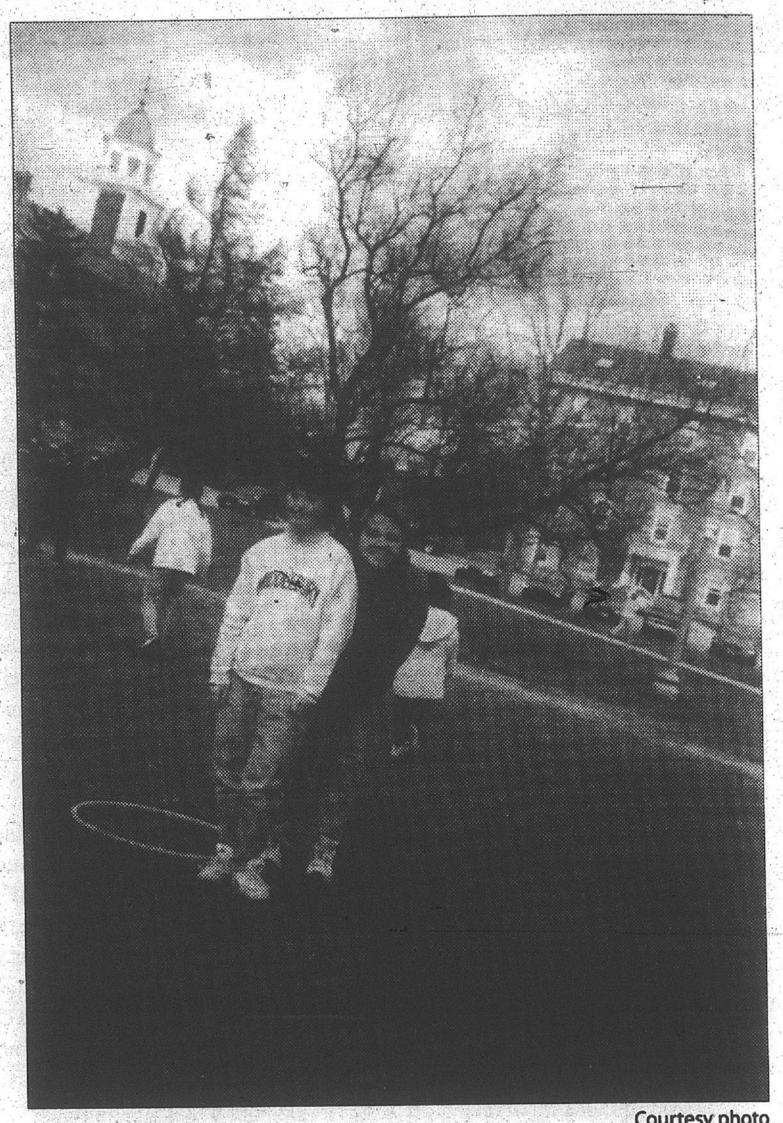
The Addison County Community Friends Program has special programs for volunteers who want to work with either the elderly, the mentally ill, or the physically and/or mentally disabled. Unfortunately, these programs are not anywhere near as popular as the normal "big-brother, big-sister" program and there are many older and disabled people waiting for community friends.

The program that works to set up volunteers with mentally and physically disabled people is known as the "Friend Indeed" program.

At present, there are a total of 48 people with a variety of disabilities waiting to be befriended by a Middlebury College student. Of these 48 people, 28 are males and 20 are females. The average age for the males is 35 and for the females is 38. At present only five Middlebury students have a community friend with a disability.

The "Friend Indeed" program is working hard to recruit more volunteers. Sometime soon, they plan to have a special information session which would educate Middlebury students about a few of the more common disabilities that people have and encourage interested students to volunteer their friendship.

Students interested in being a part of the "Friend Indeed" program can fill out a regular Community Friends application which is available at the Student Activities Office. Students who want to know more about the program can contact Kristin Alloso at 388-6751.



Courtesy photo

Suzy Lopez '99 and her community pal, Sarah Perry, love to hang out, eat, shop, and watch movies together.

Otter Creek prepares for Oktoberfest celebration

(continued from page 7)

released in the fall of 1995. "Autumn ale's clean and refreshing flavor is created by balancing the malt sweetness with two different hops," explained Ebner. "We created Oktoberfest ale to complement a crisp, Vermont autumn day." The brewery is very keen on seasonal ales because they cater to people's tastes at different times of the year. The brewery's cold weather brews are thicker, darker and have more alcohol than the warm weather ales.

This winter, Otter Creek Brewing will also be introducing Winter's Ale, a scotch beer that will be available for the first time in November.

According to Ebner, Otter Creek Ales have a distinct taste because the company uses a special German style host yeast while most other companies use English yeast.

"Typically, a company uses one kind of yeast for all its beers. So it runs as a signature, giving the ale a unique taste," Ebner explained.

Otter Creek also places great importance on public relations. During the first weekend in October, the brewery will host its second annual Oktoberfest party at the brewery on Exchange Street in Middlebury. Otter Creek's free, all-day event will feature German-style food, a band and activities for all ages.

If you'd like to visit the brewery at another time, it is open daily to the public with tours in the afternoon.

Factory work teaches lessons of life

(continued from page 7)

youngest person working there, and the only college student. Most people I talked to couldn't understand why I went to college, or more precisely, why I wanted to go to college.

They all wanted to know what it was like, though, and I had a hard time convincing them that I did more than just party. Just like they couldn't understand why I went to college, I couldn't understand how they could not want more than what they had.

Everybody I talked to was unhappy with their job, and almost all of them regretted not staying in school. People greeted me with "oh, you're that girl with the future. Pleased to meet you."

The people I met were all different from people I had known. For one thing, they were all over 30. However, they all acted like I would with my friends. I would joke around with the women who worked in my department, but when I started thinking about it, I became scared.

It was like seeing my mother acting this way, and I could not imagine my mom even thinking about the kinds of things these women actually did. But all these people were moms themselves, and I started wondering just what my own mom did all day while I was at work.

I started getting daily marriage advice, most of which was negative. I talked to men who were trapped in loveless marriages, and others who were stuck paying off their wife's (or wives') debts.

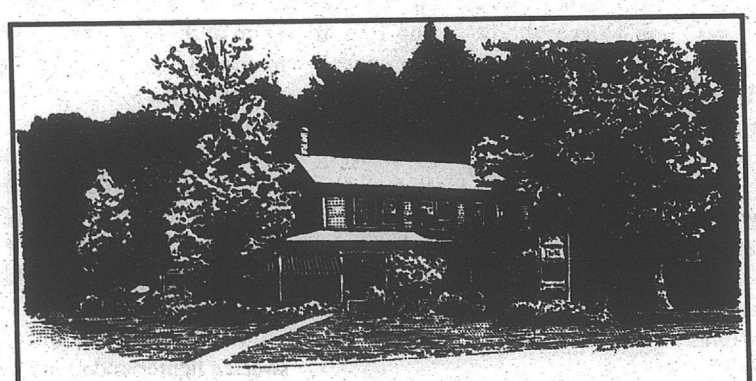
I also talked to women who had husbands run out on them. One even found her husband in bed with another man. So, I was constantly told to wait and find a good man with a good job, which I took as pretty sound advice.

I did end up learning a lot this summer.

It wasn't chemistry or calculus but it was about people, choices, and life. I made a lot of friends, and as happy as I was on the last day of work, I was sad to leave because I knew I would probably never see any of these people again.

But on that final day, I was taken out for pizza, given little going away presents, and many guilt trips for leaving. There was even a cake and a card signed by everybody. It was quite touching, so much so that I ended up promising, "Of course I'll come back next summer!"

It's an experience everyone should have.



WAYBURY INN

Route 125 East Middlebury Vermont 05740

Visit our Pub and join the "Beer Club" The largest Selection of Beer in the Valley

or

Join us for unpretentious fine dining

Located just down the road in East Middlebury

Brookside Meadows For Parents and Other Special Guests

Since 1982, offering special comfort and hospitality in a lovely natural setting just three miles from the campus.
For information see our web site at:
http://www.brooksidemeadow.com
or phone (802) 388-6429.

New MOOers fearlessly explore Vermont terrain

by Shruthi Mahalingaiah
Staff Writer

Middlebury Outdoor Orientation, fondly known as MOO, has marked the incoming of a new class of fresh first-year students. This year represents MOO's tenth year of activity, growing in first-year participation since 1987.

Juliana Popper '98, MOO coordinator for this year, organized sundry orientation trips: hiking, biking, canoeing, rock climbing, and trail maintenance. New this year was the participation of alumni and faculty on MOO trips.

The MOO program this year began with speaker Bill McKibben, environmental writer from the Adirondack Mountains of New York.

The dynamic lecture was followed by a discussion of topics ranging from what each person can do to make a small contribution to the healing of our distressed planet to how opting to sacrifice having even one child may be the next step in managing the global population crisis.

McKibben mentioned that sun-drying clothes (using solar energy) rather than supporting a system that relies on nuclear power to make heat energy in the conventional dryer is one thing we can 'do,' as well as the prudent use of paper and paper products.

He ended his speech with an invitation for first-year students, MOO leaders, and faculty alike to begin an active relationship with their precious and sacred natural surroundings.

The hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, biking, and trail maintenance began the following morning of Friday, Sept. 5, as MOOers and their fearless leaders arrived at trail heads of the Long Trail, rivers, rock walls and off-road biking trails throughout Vermont.

Nearly one half of the class of 2001 participated in MOO, on a total of 37 trips. Trips went as far north as Jay Peak, while others traversed Mt. Abraham.

The trips returned on Sunday, in time to unpack, shower, reflect, and prepare for the swiftly approaching year. MOO happily reports that the trips were successful, and hopes that first-years can share their anxieties, discoveries, fears, and goals with new confidences established during the trips.

Courtesy photo

MOOers were given an opportunity to experience the magnificent beauty of natural Vermont. Almost half of the incoming class participated in the program.

Orientation arouses varied reactions

(continued from page 7)

the bus." Sharon Wilson '01 enjoyed "This is Vermont" but thought that it could have included more trails such as the Robert Frost trail.

She said she would have liked to learn more about the history of Vermont. Carole Stromboni, a transfer student, felt that the leaders didn't offer a very objective view of Vermont because they didn't expose students to any of Vermont's weaknesses.

"I would've liked to know more about the history. For instance, when they told us that the mummy of a five year old Egyptian boy is buried in our campus cemetery, I was really intrigued," added Stromboni.

The 260 students who opted for MOO trips chose between 29 hiking trips of three different levels, three mountain biking trips, two canoeing trips, two climbing trips and one trail maintenance trip. Most students found their MOO trips were demanding and fun. As Brendan Donnelly '01 said, "I found the five to nine mile hike incredibly gruelling yet satisfying. It was the greatest time of my life." Paul Shull '01 added that "MOO was great because it really brought people very close together in a short time span. It was like a team effort. Also, it was a great way to get to know the Vermont area." MOO is a student organization that was founded ten years ago by members of the Middlebury Mountain Club.

Its trips have been hugely successful every year, this year being no exception.

COSTA RICA

Study Paradise this Spring

The **Organization for Tropical Studies** in partnership with **Duke University** offers a field-oriented **semester abroad program** in tropical ecology and Latin American culture. Students earn 16 credit hours in biology, environmental science, and Spanish language & culture.
Credits may be transferred from Duke.

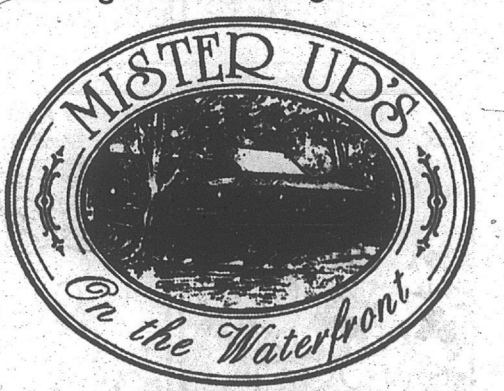
• **hands-on biology** • **cultural immersion** • **field trips**
• **independent projects** • **remote field sites**
• **research** • **exotic wildlife**

For brochure and application materials, contact
Organization for Tropical Studies, Duke University
Box 90633, Durham NC 27708-0633
Tel: (919) 684-5774; E-mail: <nao@acpub.duke.edu>
http://www.ots.duke.edu

Application deadline for 1998 Spring semester is October 15, 1997.

Man does not live by three meals alone

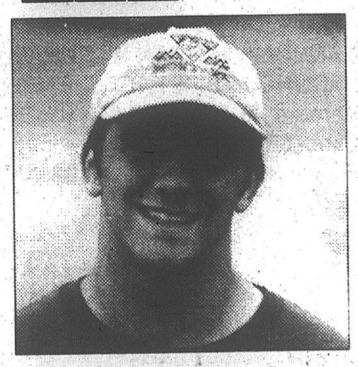
Prime Rib, Ultimate Nachos, Soup & Salad Bar, Brunch, Chicken Wings, Wine, Quesadilla- for snacks or late night. Whatever your mood, there's nothing like the feeling at



Bakery Lane, Middlebury
Reservations 388-6724

CAMPUS VOICES

What was your first thought when you came back to Middlebury?



■ "Smells like manure."
— Jonathan Reiber '00

■ "That I don't like to be on campus."
— Erin Fuller campus visitor

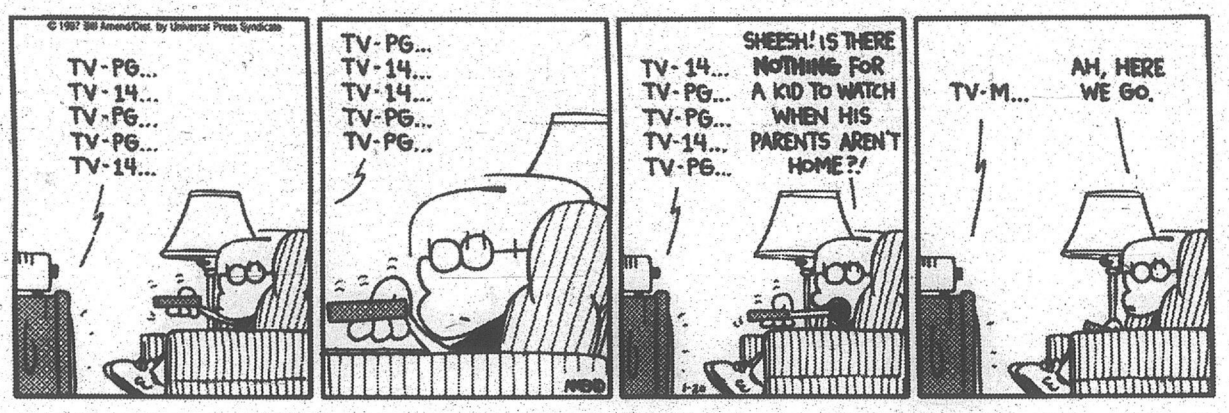
■ "All the other kids will be jealous of my bike."
— Tom Bishop '99

■ "Rock 'n Roll."
— Sarah Borch '99

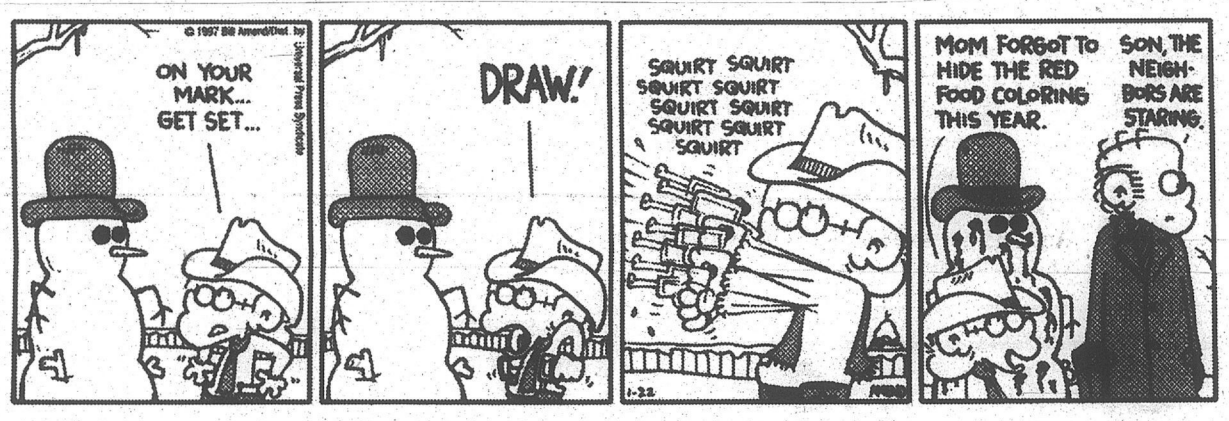
Compiled by Emily Manning

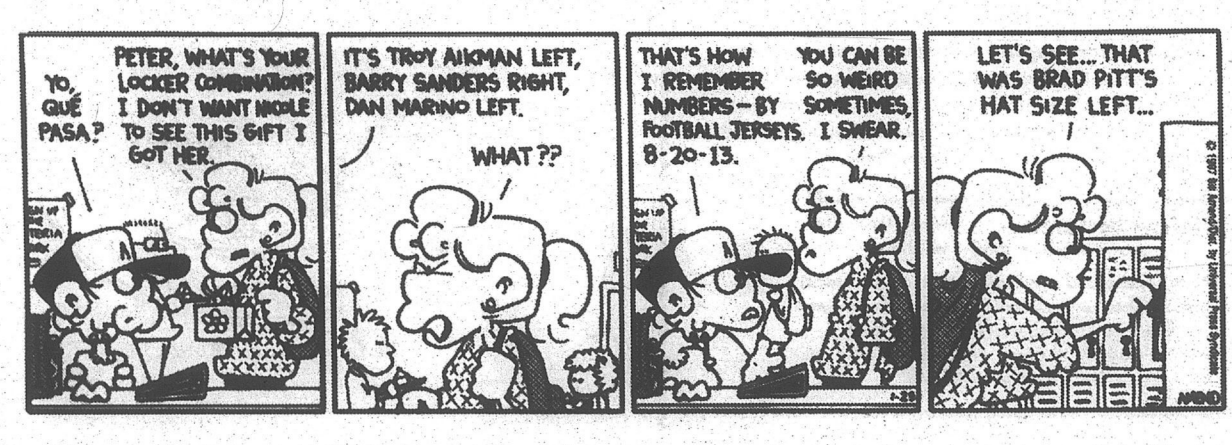
Photos by David Barreda

FoxTrot



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEWS-PAPER?! I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF READING IT!
I THINK DAD PUT IT IN THE RECYCLING BIN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WATER GLASS?! I LEFT IT RIGHT HERE!
I THINK DAD PUT IT IN THE DISH-WASHER.
THE NEWS-PAPER'S GONE AGAIN?!
TAKE A WILD GUESS.
I'M ON TO YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, FLASH.


ON YOUR MARK... GET SET...
DRAW!
SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT SQUIRT
MOM FORGOT TO HIDE THE RED FOOD COLORING THIS YEAR.
SON, THE NEIGH-BORS ARE STARING.


YO, QUÉ PASA?
PETER, WHAT'S YOUR LOCKER COMBINATION? I DON'T WANT NICOLE TO SEE THIS GIFT I GOT HER.
IT'S TROY AIKMAN LEFT, BARRY SANDERS RIGHT, DAN MARINO LEFT.
WHAT??
THAT'S HOW I REMEMBER NUMBERS — BY FOOTBALL JERSEYS. 8-20-13.
YOU CAN BE SO WEIRD SOMETIMES, I SWEAR.
LET'S SEE... THAT WAS BRAD PITT'S HAT SIZE LEFT...

GITCHY GITCHY GOO!
GITCHY GITCHY GOO!
GITCHY GITCHY GITCHY GITCHY GITCHY...
YOU'RE RIGHT— "TICKLE ME QUINCY" DOLLS WOULD BE EASY TO MAKE.
THEY WOULDN'T EVEN NEED BATTERIES.

WHAT DO YOU KIDS WANT ON YOUR PIZZA?
I WANT PEPPER-ONI, BUT NO MUSHROOMS!
I WANT MUSH-ROOMS, BUT NO PEPPERONI!
I WANT PEPPER-ONI AND MUSHROOMS TOGETHER!
I SEE.
"TEEN-AGER CREDITS PERFECT SAT SCORE TO STINT AT LOCAL PIZZA PARLOR"...
ANDY, QUIET— I'M PLACING OUR ORDER.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted: $ EXTRA INCOME $ Here's a way to pocket MORE money with LESS time committed. Sell advertising with a weekly newspaper, right here in Addison County, when studies are not a priority. Call 802-247-6877

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPLY TO SERVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL. For more information call Jen Hazen at extension 5043. Application deadline: Friday, September 19th!

80 FELLOWSHIPS will be awarded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for full-time study toward a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in biological sciences. Awards are three years, with extension possible for two additional years of full support. Fellowship awards provide an annual stipend of $15,000 and a $15,000 annual cost-of-education allowance.
Write:
Howard Hughes Fellowship Program
The Fellowship Office
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20418

Call (202) 334-3419 or Fax (202)334-3419
http://fellowship.nas.edu

THE 4th ANNUAL SOUTH BURLINGTON SKI SWAP ALL-SPORTS SALE will be held at South Burlington High School, Dorset Street, South Burlington on Saturday, October 4th. Dorrs open at 9 AM and sale ends at 7pm.
CALL 1-800-222-4432

3RD ANNUAL CHIPMAN HILL CHALLENGE X-C MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE. Saturday, September 20, 1997 at 9 AM. The Beginner and Sport Races will follow the Experts. $1000 in cash and gift certificates.

Milsom emerges as new music-man

By Thaya Brook
Arts Editor

This year at Convocation the freshmen were not the only new people in Mead Chapel. John Milsom was also a new face, making his Middlebury debut conducting the College choir during the service. Milsom has made his way over to us from across the Atlantic, carrying with him his British accent and his love and knowledge of early English music.

Milsom has jumped into Middlebury with both feet as he assumes the duties of department chair, professor of Music 122, and director of the choir. When Paul Nelson, professor of political science, first asked Milsom to consider the position here, Milsom did not even know where Vermont was. At that point he had been teaching at Oxford University for twenty years and was growing bored with the British standard of education. According to Milsom, even with the new Labor government, money is scarce among British universities. Had he taken a teaching position at some of the universities in his own country, he says, he would have been counting costs right down to how many photocopies he could make.

When offered the position here at Middlebury, Milsom also had an offer from a university in northern England, which he describes as dirty and industrial. He had long thought that Canada sounded like a nice place and when Vermont was described to him, it seemed like paradise; he even liked the idea of the massive amounts of snow.

When Milsom's colleagues at Oxford heard he was leaving to teach in America, they advised him to re-consider. They told him he would miss Oxford terribly, that he should have looked at some of the large universities and conservatories, that he should teach graduate students if he must teach in the United States at all. An old friend and mentor of his who had taught at Princeton for many years eventually decided to go home to England. She had found that Medieval and Renaissance studies were being edged out to make room for more modern areas of study such as gender studies and the like. The numbers in her classes had fallen off in the years she had been at Princeton to the point that she felt she must return to Cambridge.

Milsom's music 122 class, Music, Meaning, and the Middle Ages, is having just the opposite problem. With class enrollment exceeding 50, he has had to turn away interested students. Milsom says he does not miss Oxford a bit.

Aside from teaching at Oxford, Milsom has spent time researching Medieval and Renaissance music, doing radio broadcasts, writing for newspapers and magazines, and directing amateur choirs. The radio and newspaper work, he admits, was a bit mercenary. He finds more enjoyment in his other pursuits. Concerts, he says, are not his favorite part of directing choirs; in fact, he finds pulling a concert together to be a bit of a challenge. His favorite part is in the rehearsing. "I love bashing singers into shape," he says. "I love working them until they're tired."

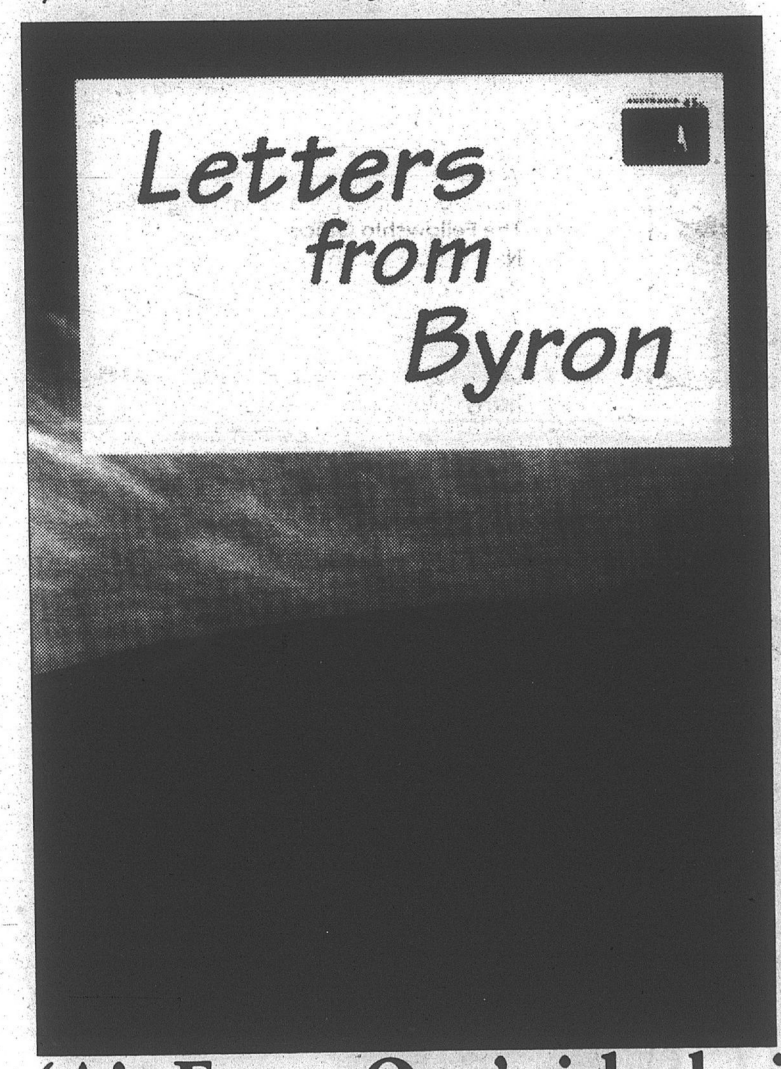
He prefers amateur singers to professionals; amateurs sing for the love of singing and lack the cynicism of professionals. He looks forward to working with the choir, but warns that this semester will be no holiday for the group.

(see Milsom, page 11)

A Look to the East

Carnegie Museum of Art

The Middlebury College Museum of Art, *will feature an exhibition of Japanese Prints from September 4 to November 23.*



'Letters' revels in tales of the paranormal

By Samuel Folk-Williams
Staff Writer

In his new book *Letters From Byron* (Black Pepper Press, 1997), Australian writer Jim Williams explores fantastic story-telling in the vein of the X-Files, only better. Previously, Williams has published mostly poems; *Letters From Byron* is his first prose book.

Based on the author's eighteen-month stay in the small coastal town of Byron Bay in Northeastern Australia, the book is comprised of a series of brief letters written by Williams to various friends and family members about his experiences in this "new age" community.

With a population similar in make-up to, say, Santa Cruz, Byron Bay is composed of earth people, recent converts to exotic religions, mystic healers, and new age artists. This somewhat eclectic mix of personalities gave Williams a great deal of material about which to write home.

From near-death encounters with eccentric religious groups in the woods, strange experiences with mystic cults, run-ins with death in many bizarre and surprising ways, to the ultimate encounters with unexplained phenomena, Williams keeps the curiosity of his audience peaked with tales of more and more bizarre happenings. Finally, one has to be skeptical of the claim on the back cover that these are, in fact, actual letters written by Williams during his time in Byron.

As Williams eloquently phrases it in a letter to daughter Maggie: "I've always enjoyed writing letters but sometimes I get the feeling that they have managed to go far beyond my actual experiences. However, the resulting compositions have the same substance, the same inner-reality, as my other thoughts. So who is to say where the real begins and ends or indeed if there is, ultimately, a difference between what we experience in the day-to-day and what we imagine."

Here, Williams acknowledges that perhaps some of these stories are carried too far into the "X-Files" or Ray Bradbury vein, but he also seems to justify that sensationalism and to make his readers more comfortable. The author gently touches our curiosity, the part of us that wants to believe in ghosts, UFO's, and such unexplained phenomena. *Letters From Byron* represents the journey of a down-to-earth, citydwelling, middle-aged writer through foreign, strange and often distasteful expenses in which Williams ultimately finds a piece of himself hidden somewhere in the middle.

As the book reaches a close, Williams looks back on his experiences — not just in Byron, but in life — and has to come to terms with the fact that all of his 55 years can be summarized in a few paragraphs. In the last, and perhaps most unusual, letter, Williams is literally forced into an encounter with himself in which he has to face his deepest fears about living and dying.

Through the end, *Letters From Byron* proves to be a profound, fascinating, captivating, entertaining, and ultimately a deeply insightful read.

'Air Force One' risks losing audience with an unlikely premise

By Andrea Yevuta
Staff Writer

Sylvester Stallone is an overweight, partially deaf sheriff. Nicolas Cage and John Travolta switch faces. Julia Roberts actually gets rejected. Premise can be the most important determinant of whether a movie will be enjoyable – and in the case of the blockbuster summer fare, some premises were harder to swallow than others.

A solid premise need not be akin to a realistic story since, obviously, many of Hollywood's greatest movies are far-removed from everyday life, for example: "2001: a Space Odyssey", "Star Wars", and other such unusual classics. These movies succeed because they do not take their unbelievability seriously or, in rare cases, the acting, writing and directing are of such quality that the movie overcomes its unbelievability.

Such is not the case with 'Air Force One'.

Harrison Ford, in a role similar to his Jack Ryan of "Patriot Games" and "Clear and Present Danger", plays a tough guy President with a conscience. There is no bowing to public pressure as he promotes a controversial foreign policy decision. Yet he also has a softer side as evidenced by his behavior toward his wife and daughter.

When terrorists from a former Soviet republic, led by Gary Oldman, hijack Air Force One and demand the release of a particularly loathsome criminal, the audience knows that Ford, as President, will ultimately save everyone on board. Herein lies the unbelievability of premise.

As Ford slugs a caricatured Communist villain, one wonders exactly which President in our nation's history would even come close to having such incredible ability, not to mention luck.

As Ford slugs a caricatured Communist villain after caricatured Communist villain, one wonders exactly which President in our nation's history would even come close to having such incredible ability, not to mention luck.

None of the desperation of "The Fugitive" is present in Ford's performance nor does he seem to enjoy the role as much as that of the light-hearted Indiana Jones, to name two of Ford's better roles. Instead of representing a man fighting for something worth saving, the film is yet another tired attempt to rekindle a nonexistent battle against Communism.

With "In the Line of Fire", director Wolfgang Peterson successfully utilized the ability of another aging action star, Clint Eastwood, with much greater success.

That film relied not upon predictable action sequences, but rather presented a suspenseful story which was much more tightly woven with some emphasis on character development. Clint Eastwood's psychological struggles were far more interesting than Ford's numerous attempts to sneak around the plane, grapple

(see 'Air Force One', page 13)

Choir director John Milsom finds new music in Middlebury

(continued from page 10)

In comparing Middlebury students to British students he has taught in the past, Milsom has nothing but good words for the Americans. He finds American students to be more polite, more attentive, and more eager to learn.

He also is attracted to what he describes as the American student's preserved innocence. He attributes the differences between American students and their English counterparts to the fact that, while higher education is a rather expensive privilege in the U.S., it is largely state-supported in Britain and is thus regarded as a right and treated with less respect. The British students, he has found, are usually too busy drinking down at the pub to show up for anything to do with school. Milsom is surprised, however, at how little the students here know about European history and culture, but adds that it seems to be more an issue of culture than of learning.

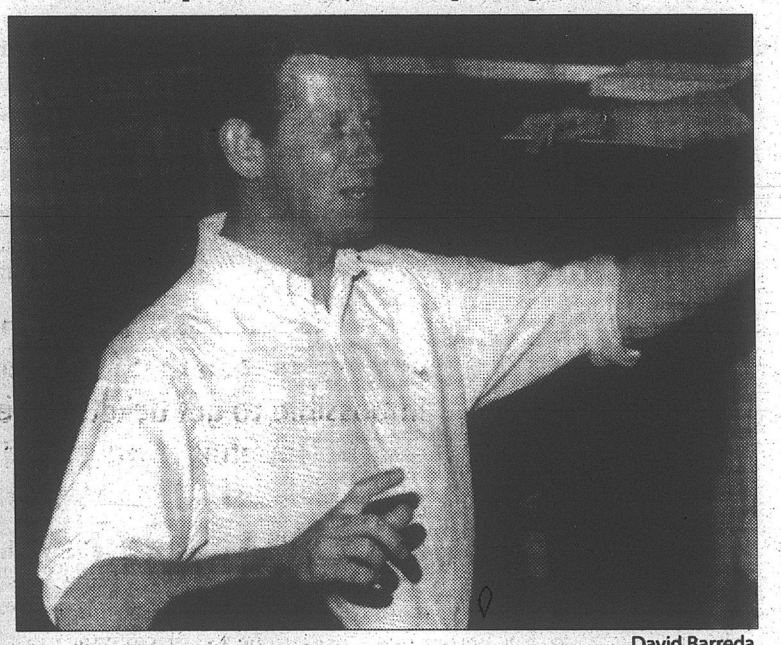
His biggest task, he says, is learning what goes on inside the mind of a young American. He admits he has never had a television in his house, rarely goes to the movies, and knows almost nothing of the internet. "I have a lot of learning to do here," he says. "I might as well have come from Mars."

One of the most general concepts Milsom must learn to grasp this year is the concept of a liberal arts education, something he never experienced in Britain. He is teaching only one class this semester because he says he would rather observe for a while rather than coming in full force with his own ideas before getting a feel for Americans, and more specifically, Middlebury's ideas of education.

You will find John Milsom's name even more infrequently on the winter term course list than on the fall list. During J-term he will be coming around to the other side of the lectern as he takes a course for new faculty members which explores the idea of a liberal arts education. For the present, he is trying to learn to shift from Oxford methods of teaching, in which the classroom situation is primarily one-on-one with classes rarely exceeding four, to teaching his comparably mammoth 50 person course this term.

Aside from teaching techniques, there are a few other little things Milsom would like to learn this year. Among them: driving a car, skiing, swimming, playing golf and understanding the rules of American football, baseball, and basketball. Although Americans and the British may both claim to speak the same language, Milsom is finding he has some lessons to learn in American vocabulary as well.

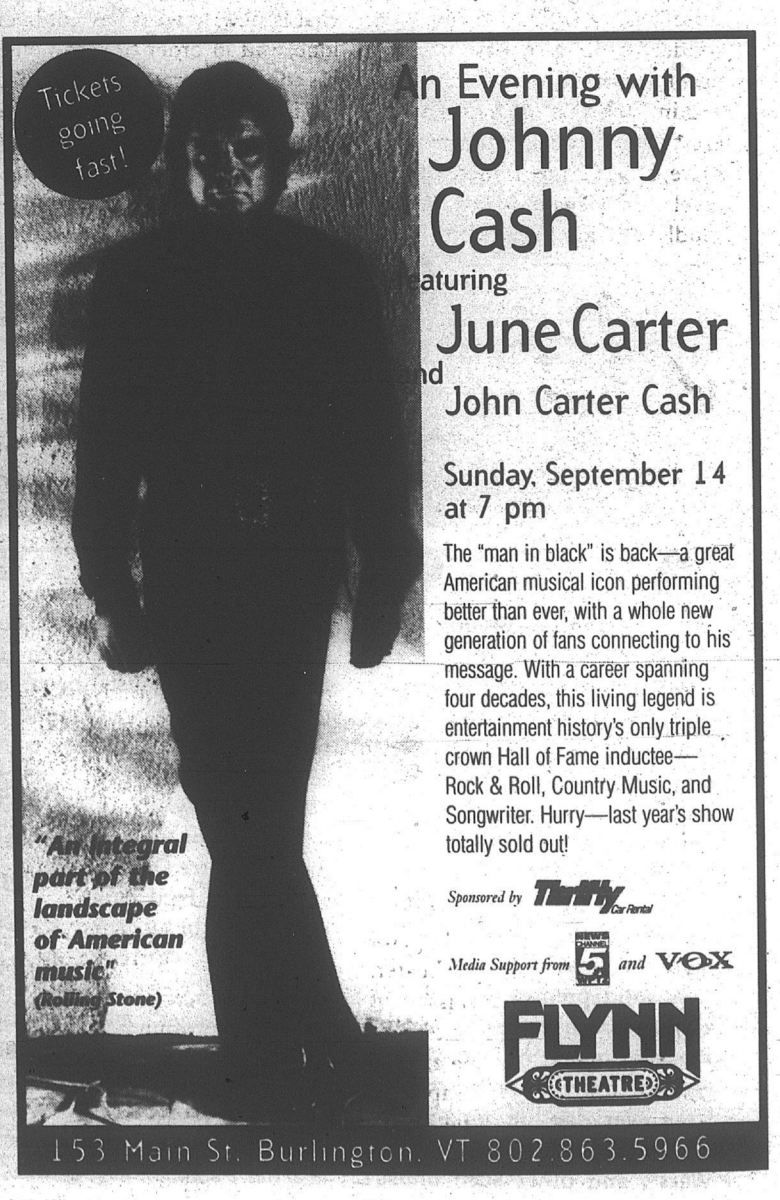
Although Milsom may not have been able to locate Vermont on a map a couple of years ago, much less Middlebury College, he seems happy with the chance that brought him here. "I haven't yet had to do anything I haven't liked," he says, a bit like a schoolboy on holiday. "God's finger must have been pointing at me."



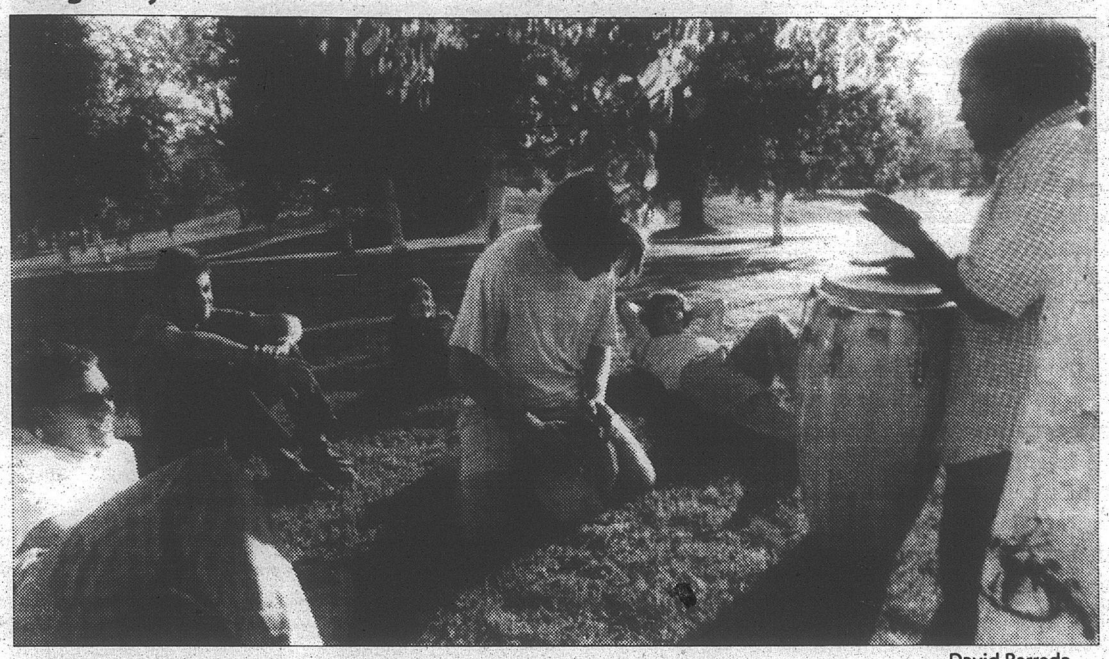
David Barreda

New choir director, Professor John Milsom, leads an afternoon rehearsal

THE RAINBOW ROOM
Students and Faculty
MENTION THIS AD DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND RECEIVE
15% OFF
ALL PURCHASES
CLASSIC POOH
PARTY LIGHTS
FAR FETCHED.
always a little different . . . like you
72 Main St., Middlebury • Open every day


Tickets going fast!
An Evening with
Johnny Cash
featuring
June Carter
and
John Carter Cash
Sunday, September 14 at 7 pm
The "man in black" is back—a great American musical icon performing better than ever, with a whole new generation of fans connecting to his message. With a career spanning four decades, this living legend is entertainment history's only triple crown Hall of Fame inductee—Rock & Roll, Country Music, and Songwriter. Hurry—last year's show totally sold out!
"An integral part of the landscape of American music." (Rolling Stone)
Sponsored by Thrifty Car Rental
Media Support from Channel 5 and VOX
FLYNN THEATRE
153 Main St. Burlington, VT 802.863.5966

Bongo boys



David Barreda

Freshmen Blaise Holly and Jose Zeullos *took to Battell beach this week, demonstrating their musical prowess for a handful of appreciate students.*

Weak story line grounds unlikely 'Air Force One'

(continued from page 10)

with terrorists, and save the day.

Luckily, the film is salvaged with some unintentionally hilarious casting and acting. As the stoic Vice President, Glenn Close does her best assertive woman grimace. Her role only further undermines the position of Vice President as an ineffectual aide to the president. Gary Oldman makes a good attempt at a Russian accent, but his role is similarly without depth.

In the most amusing role is William Macy, of "Fargo" fame, as a high-ranking military officer. Authoritative he is not.

With the continued bloating of movie releases and audiences' continued acceptance of ridiculous premises, it is unlikely that good acting, directing and writing will succeed in all movies and particularly in summer films.

One can hope, though, that when a talented group of people collaborate on a film, such as with "Air Force One", creativity will sometimes triumph over a mindless plot.

Packed audiences encourage the arts

By David Keeling
Arts Editor

I have vivid memories from last year of the frustration surrounding my often foiled attempts to get tickets to various theatrical, dance, and musical performances at Middlebury. I can recall shows that sold out for all five performances on the second day tickets were on sale. I remember several instances when I rushed to the Center for the Arts two hours before productions began just to get in line for the waiting list. I can think of aggravating times when it seemed that it was simply impossible to get a ticket to certain events.

I can think of aggravating times when it seemed that it was simply impossible to get tickets to certain events. Hopefully, I will experience the same frustration this year.

Hopefully, I will experience the same frustration this year.

That's not because I have a strange affection for lines, nor some artsy masochistic desire to fail to get tickets to events, but because it is — without doubt — a wonderful thing to have a community that supports the arts. Within such an atmosphere of interest and patronage the arts may thrive, blossoming in increasingly novel and elegant forms. We at Middlebury are fortunate to have a world-class concert hall, an elaborate Center for the Arts building, and extremely talented departments of theater, dance and music. How many other colleges and universities can boast that the senior projects and independent performances of the students in these departments are often sold out?

Middlebury, as you may have noticed, is a rather small place, and in small places it is easy to slip into routine and tradition. With continued support of the arts, however, the mundane and repetitive can be avoided and the innovative embraced. It would seem that the arts should look always to what is new, to what has not been done, and in order to accomplish this continual and often intimidating feat, they require the confidence that comes with support. A packed audience helps to offset the daunting prospect of venturing into virgin territory holding only a few memorized lines or an instrument. A sold-out show encourages the artists to accept and welcome change rather than shy from it.

With high rates of attendance at these art events, the creators and performers are encouraged to continue work, to try what has not been done. If nothing else, showing an interest in the arts ensures that what higher powers there may be (i.e. trustees and administration, among others), will continue to provide funding and time for the artists' creative pursuits.

So, in the coming year, I hope that I will once again be scrambling to get tickets and seats to the many wonderful events scheduled. If last year provided any indication, then I imagine that the numerous projects, productions and shows will be exemplary. There will undoubtedly be moments of frustration, but it is a pleasure to know that such frustration comes only because of the commitment of other students, faculty and community members to the arts. Just remember: call for tickets early.

Arts Smarts

Movies

Friday, September 12

4:00 p.m.
Video Screening: "Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1868"

After centuries of warfare, the Tokugawa rulers bring 250 years of peace to Japan, nurturing an ordered society, economic development and the growth of cities. This video surveys cultural achievement of the Tokugawa era–featuring puppet theater, novels, and the haiku of Basho–and provides a context for the works on view in the exhibition A Hidden Treasure: Japanese Prints from the Carnegie Museum of Art.. Refreshments will be served.
Arts Center Lower Lobby

7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
"One Crazy Summer"

With a name like Hoops McCann, he's bound to get that basketball scholarship after high school, right? Wrong! What Hoops really wants to do is write and illustrate a love story. To help him find his way, his friend George invites Hoops to come with him and his sister to spend the summer on Nantucket. The friends' "Crazy Summer" begins when they pick up Cassandra on the way–she's being chased by a motorcycle gang. From here on, it only gets crazier. Along the way, Hoops must find a way to write his cartoon love story–and maybe a real one of his own. Sponsored by the American Movie Club. Admission $1.
Dana Auditorium

Performances

Thursday, September 11

4:30 p.m.
Auditions: Dance Company of Middlebury

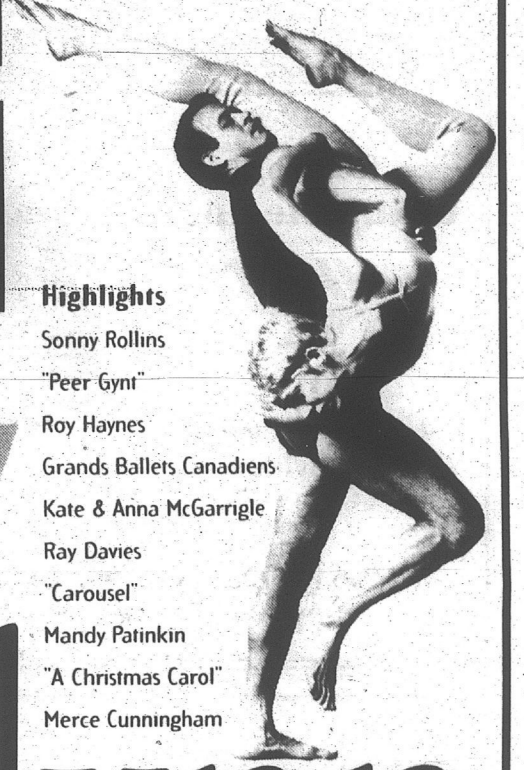
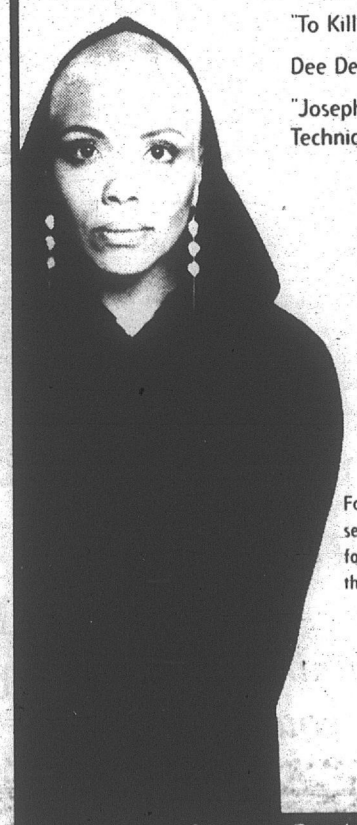
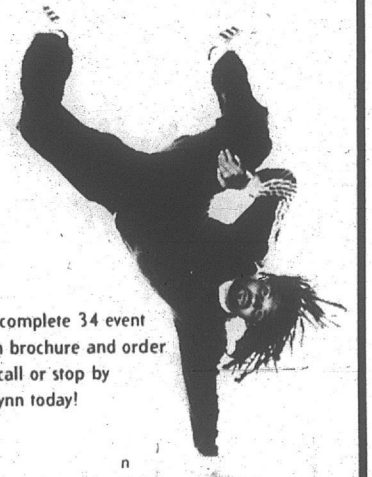
Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. All interested students come prepared to move. Call Peter at ext. 5030 with questions.
Arts Center Dance Theater

Saturday, September 13

10:00 p.m.
Concert: Belizbeha and Chin Ho! Popular local bands perform in McCullough. Come dance and enjoy. Admission $3 with Middlebury ID, $4 others.
McCullough Floor

Sunday, September 14

10:00 p.m.
Otter Nonsense Players. Middlebury's Improvisational Comedy group welcomes everyone to come and "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Junk" for the kickoff of another year of love and passion. McCullough Floor

Act Early for Best Seats

Highlights
Sonny Rollins
"Peer Gynt"
Roy Haynes
Grands Ballets Canadiens
Kate & Anna McGarrigle
Ray Davies
"Carousel"
Mandy Patinkin
"A Christmas Carol"
Merce Cunningham
97 Flynn Season
Bayou to Bourbon Street
Guitar Summit
"Damn Yankees"
Jazz Tap/Hip Hop Festival
"Frog & Toad"
Peking Opera
"To Kill a Mockingbird"
Dee Dee Bridgewater
"Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
CALL 86-FLYNN TODAY!


For a complete 34 event season brochure and order form call or stop by the Flynn today!
FLYNN THEATRE
153 Main Street. Burlington. VT 802.652.4500

Championship prospect drives football

(continued from page 16)

to win out starting positions along with junior A.J. Husband, last year's leading receiver. Tahg Campell, the high scorer for the last two seasons, looks to return as starting tight-end/half-back, joined by younger brother Zach `01.

When asked this year's offense is looking, Tahg says "I think the offense is looking good. We had some question marks going into the pre-season, but I think they have been worked out."

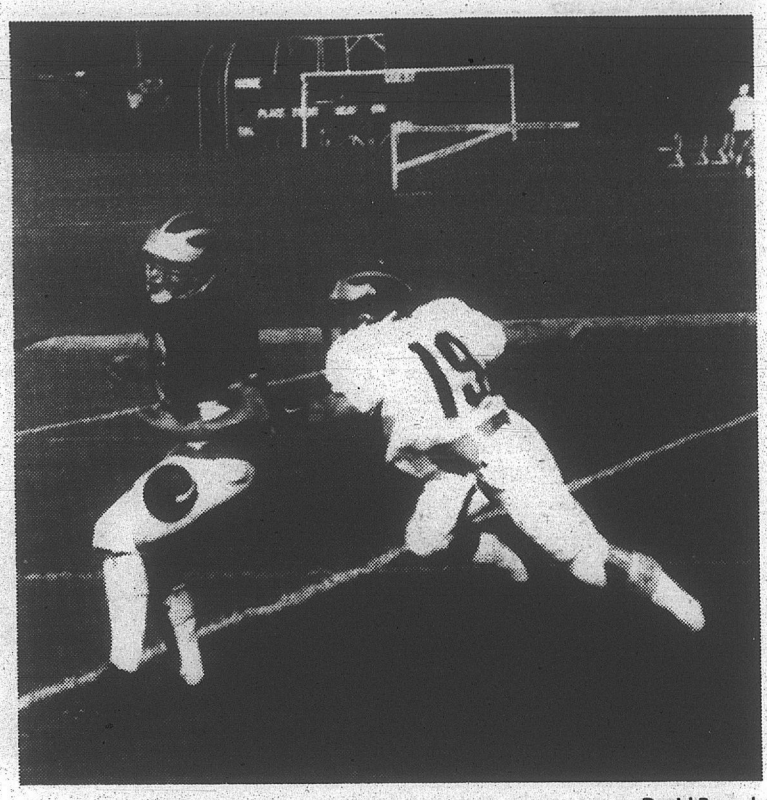
The defense is led this year by senior captains Josh Bonifas and Steve Monniger at linebackers, along with fellow senior linebackers Colin Williams and Frank Ott. Look for senior Ron Nobile to have another great season as he rushes and crushes offensive schemes along with the help of fellow seniors Chris Vaughan and Nathan Maxey. Junior Brad Hotchkiss is sure to make his presence felt again this season along with the help of E.J. Cooper `00, who is sure to ice the opposing offense

Like the receiver corps. the defensive backfield is a large and skilled group. Expect seniors Scott Nelson, Dan Nelson, Andy McPhee and Chris Nally to foil receivers routes this season along with the help of juniors Josh Harmon and Bill Corvalan, and sophomore Mike Baumgardner.

This year cannot and will not be one of fluke losses, of little mistakes. Perfect execution and personal accountability are key philosophies. The coaches have a deep roster to pick from, and their demand for excellence has inspired the team to an impressive and dedicated pre-season. Incoming freshman have leaped into the program at a running start, impressing the coaching staff and team alike with their dedication and talent.

The final test of pre-season play for the `97 Panthers will come as the team travels down to Brattleboro this Saturday to scrimmage against Weslyan College.

It will give the team an opportunity to make final personnel decisions and test out offensive and defensive schemes against another team that is eager to prove itself. The regular season begins in Maine on the 20th as the Panthers travel to Bowdoin College, and the home opener is September 27th against Colby College.



David Barreda

Stephen Kelley `00 strips ball from Devon O'Neil `01 during practice.

Men's soccer eager to improve rank

(continued from page 16)

the game. However, as in the previous game, Middlebury simply had trouble finding the back of the net despite several excellent opportunities. The win came as the result of the expert goalkeeping of Wiercinski and Price, who several times made point blank saves on seemingly sure opportunities for Hamilton and the excellent play of Pete Soden.

The pre-season polls rank Middlebury at number sixteen in the country and the team looks to better its round-of-sixteen loss in the NCAA tournament last year. Over the last three years the team has gone 35-5...

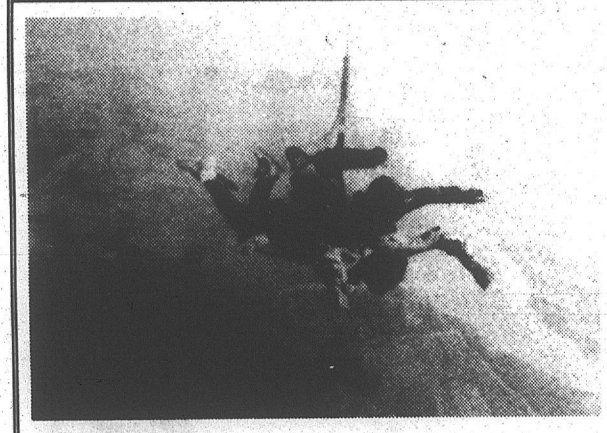
The final scrimmage brought former Middlebury players back to strain their aging bodies to their breaking points against the current players in the Alumni game. The game was an exciting one, with the current players challenged by crafty veteran play. Most notably, coach Ron McEachen continuously embarrassed Middlebury players despite his inability to move very quickly. His eligibility is currently being researched and he may prove to be a valuable late addition to the squad. However, the Alumni were unsuccessful in repeating their upset victory of last year and the current team came out on top 3-2. Goals were scored by Cormier, Clark, and Sorokin. Price had another excellent day in goal, making key saves on several occasions. The only disappointment of the day came when the post-game barbecue was canceled.

With pre-season play finished, the team is looking forward the start of the regular season with its season opener at home on Saturday, September 13 against NESCAC rival Bates.

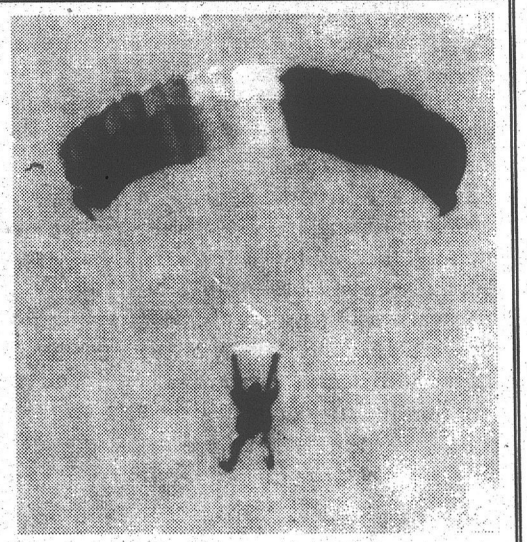
VERMONT FIELD SPORTS
(802) 388-3572
Vermont's Premier Sporting Goods Outfitter

featuring a
Complete line of
HI-TEC®
Footware
For all your outdoor activities!

NOW OPEN EVERY DAY!
9-6 MON-SAT 9-7 FRI 9-2 SUN
LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE A&W



Vermont
SKYDIVING
Adventures



•Static Line
•Tandem
•Accelerated Free Fall
•*Jump the same day (weather permitting)*

Fall in Vermont...
Jump out of a perfectly good airplane

Rt.17, West Addison, VT
802 SKYDIVE•(802) 759-3483
Member of United States Parachute Association

Make an appointment for the thrill of your life

C'mon, you know you want to.

Smith finds no faults with tennis teams

By Scott Cacciola
Staff Writer

Fall has begun at Middlebury College and with the falling temperatures, the changing colors of leaves, endless lines at the bookstore, is, of course, the sweet pop of the ball down at the tennis courts. Coach Smith's squad is once again gearing up for an intense season with boundless energy and optimism.

On the women's side, Coach Smith has a veteran squad, led by the Senior trio of Josie Kytle, Emilty Richards, and Jill Patey. With these three gritty veterans providing an otherwise youthful team with needed experience and leadership, there is certainly reason to be optimistic about the season's prospects. "We're looking for a lot of leadership and a lot of quality play from the seniors," stated Coach Smith. "They've been on the team for a long time and we're looking for good contributions from them in both singles and doubles."

Providing some firepower behind these seniors is a determined group of underclassman, led so far by the very improved play of Lyndsey Erickson `00.

Many of these younger players worked extremely hard on their games over the summer months and Coach Smith is impressed with what she sees so far. She also feels that the team has "a little more balance" than last year's squad, and as a result, "it is certainly a stronger team."

Despite the possibility of missing a couple of key players for the first few matches as a result of injury, the team hopes to get off to a strong start this weekend in a pair of home matches. On Friday, the Panthers will square off against national power Colby College. If successful in their first match the women will then look for a clean sweep for the weekend as on Saturday they face Bates College in another NESCAC match.

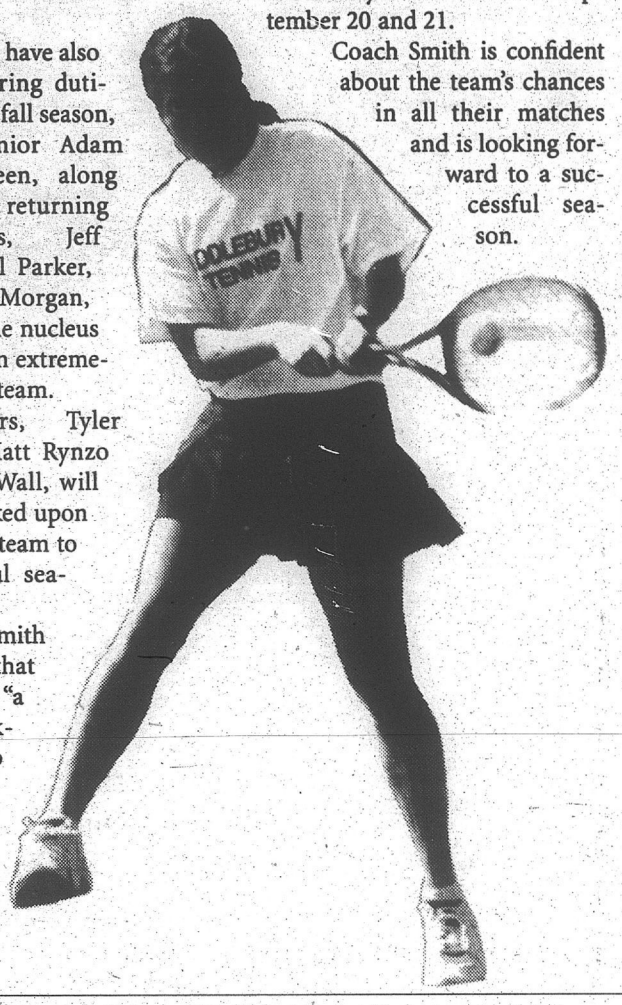
The men have also been preparing dutifully for the fall season, led by Senior Adam Green. Green, along with three returning sophomores, Jeff Doran, Will Parker, and Rick Morgan, will form the nucleus of what is an extremely youthful team.

First-years, Tyler Christie, Matt Rynzo and Peter Wall, will also be looked upon to help the team to a successful season.

Coach Smith observes that the team is "a hard working group with great work ethic." Despite the inexperience of the majority of the team, she believes that "we can expect some pretty solid play from the men." Tryouts will be continuing through this week for the men's team, and Coach Smith hopes to make her final roster decisions by the end of the week.

The men's first test will be at Skidmore College on September 16, which will followed be the Middlebury Invitational on September 20 and 21.

Coach Smith is confident about the team's chances in all their matches and is looking forward to a successful season.



Upcoming Fall Sports Events

Men's Soccer
Sept. 13 Bates 1:00
Sept. 20 Bowdin 11:00

Women's Soccer
Sept. 13 Bates 11:00
Sept. 16 St. Michael's..... 4:00

Field Hockey
Sept. 13 Bates 1:00
Sept. 16 Babson @ St. Paul's..... 4:30

Varsity Football
Sept. 20 Bowdin..... 1:30
Sept. 27 Colby 1:30

Women's Tennis
Sept. 12 Colby..... 4:00
Sept. 13 Bates 1:00

Men's Tennis
Sept. 16 Skidmore..... 11:00
Sept. 20-21 Midd. Invitational..... 4:00

Cross Country
Sept. 13 Williams.....1:00 & 1:30
Sept. 20 Williams Invit. .....12:00 & 1:30

Men's Golf
Sept. 13-14 D. Nelson Tourney..... 11:00
Sept. 16 Skidmore Fall Classic..... 4:00

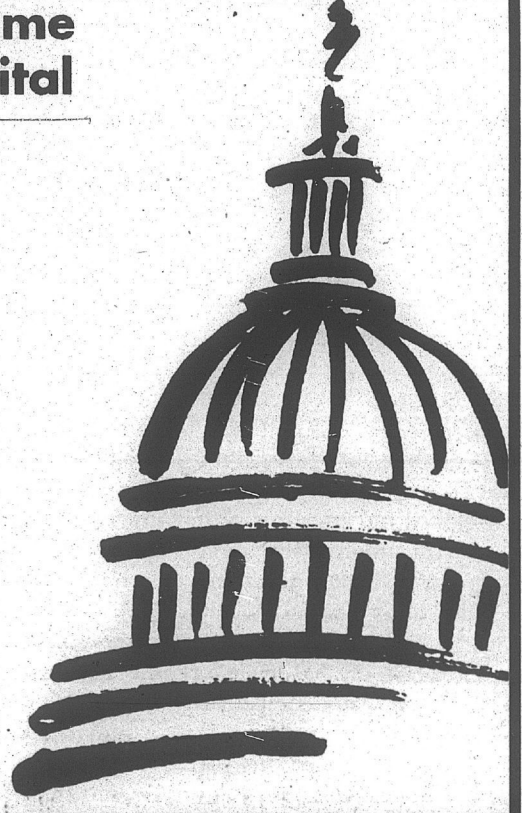
Women's Volleyball
Sept. 12-13 Williams Invitational..... 11:00
Sept. 19-20 Bates Invitational 4:00

GW Semester in Washington
An Undergraduate Program in Political Management
Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions

Experience Springtime in the Nation's Capital

- Learn From and Network Among "Washington Insiders"
- Live 3 blocks from the White House
- Produce Radio and TV Advertisements in Campaign Simulations
- Bike and Rollerblade by DC's Cherry Blossoms
- Compete as Consulting Groups on Strategic Lobbying Plans

Make Connections to Launch YOUR CAREER



The George Washington University WASHINGTON DC
The Graduate School of Political Management
GW is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution

For More Information, And To Receive An Application, Contact:
(800) 367-4776, (202) 994-6000 http://www.gwu.edu/~gspm
Now Accepting Applications On A Rolling Admissions Basis
Apply NOW! Spring Session Deadline: October 31, 1997

Angela's
Great Italian Food
Monday: $2 BUCK NIGHT!
All Draft Beers- $2.00
Tuesday: LADIES NIGHT
All Frozen Drinks- $2.95
All Well Drinks- $2.00
Wednesday:CANADA NIGHT
All Canadian Beers- $2.00
Thursday:BUD BONE NIGHT
16oz. Bud- $1.50 / 28oz. Bone $3.50
(Keep the Bone!) Refill: $2.50
Come join us for
large portions
High Quality
Low Price (all meals $7.95 or less)
We need your business
86 Main St. 388-0002

Magnificent Lake Champlain Home on 11.57± Acres w/Views, Views, Views!

Route 125, Addison, VT (Rt. 22A to Rt. 125, home is 1 mi. south of bridge to NY on left.)

- *620' Lake Champlain Frontage*
- *Fabulous Custom Built Home*
- *1000± Christmas Trees*
- *Large Barn*
- *Quaint Garden Shed*
- *Lovely Grounds*

This home is fabulous! Top quality throughout!
Owner built, so you know it is built right! Owner has over $520,000 invested.
Lovely Grand Foyer invites you and your guests into a Fabulous Living & Sitting Rooms with Wide Pine Floors and many colonial touches. Lg. Kitchen & Dining Area & Study finish the main level; 4-5 Luxurious Bedrooms; 3.25 Baths; Oversized Windows so you can enjoy the lake & mountain VIEWS!
Plenty of room for Horses, Children, Company retreat...
Possible Bed & Breakfast..

Exclusive only $375,000.00 • Owner Says present offers

THOMAS HIRCHAK CO. • 1-800-634-7653

Men's Sports
Soccer vs Bates(h) Sept. 13 @ 1:00
Football vs. Bowdoin(a) Sept. 20 @ 1:30
Tennis vs. Skidmore(a) Sept. 16 @ 3:30

The Campus Sports

Women's Sports
Soccer vs. Bates(h) Sept. 13 @ 1:00
Field Hockey vs. Bates(a) Sept. 13 @ 4:30
Tennis vs. Colby(h) Sept. 12 @ 4:00

September 11, 1997

Men's soccer strives to better last year's tournament finish

By Paul Chusid
Staff Writer

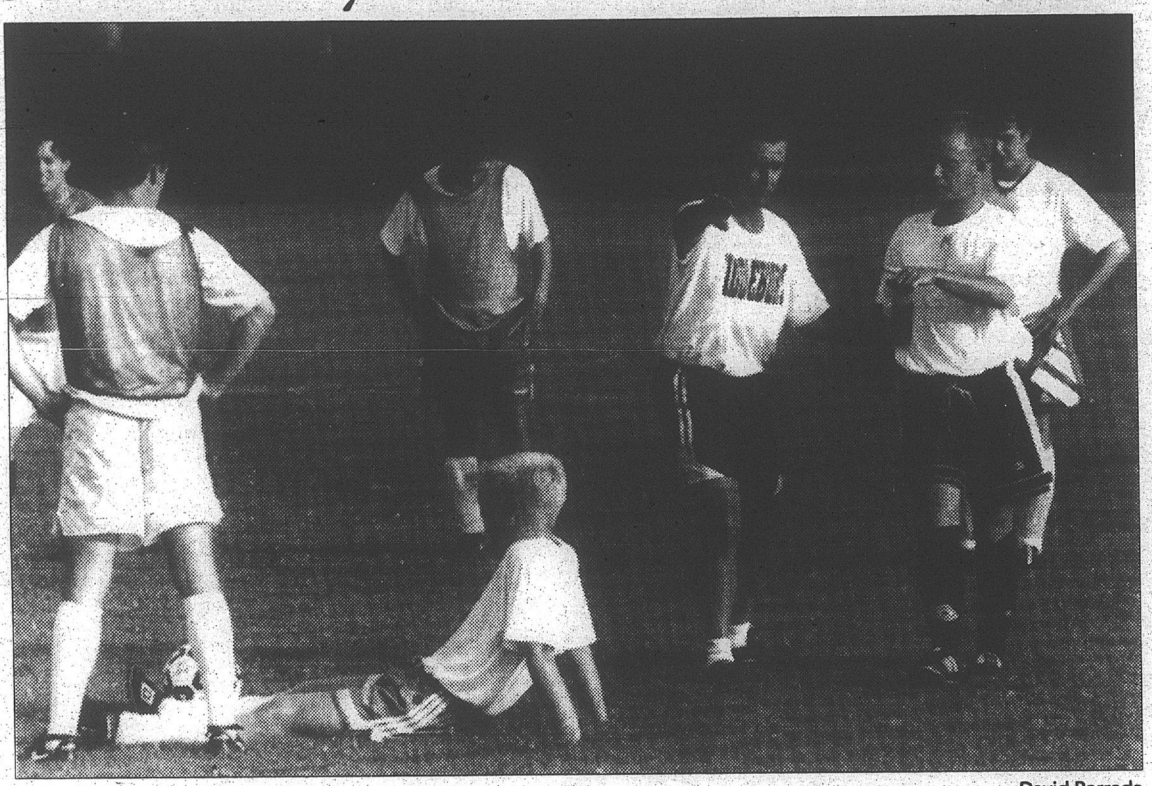
Coached by David Saward, Ron McEachen, and Mark Smith, the Middlebury men's soccer team is looking forward to another outstanding season. Captained by seniors Mike Russel and Mike Taylor, who was an All-American last year, the team hopes to avenge last year's losses to Williams and Wesleyan on its way to proving that Middlebury is the premier soccer power in NESCAC.

The pre-season polls rank Middlebury at number sixteen in the country and the team looks to better its round-of-sixteen loss in the NCAA tournament last year. Over the last three years the team has gone 35-5, and this year's team looks to add to this outstanding record. "We are capable of maintaining a high level of play as long as we do not become complacent," says Saward. In addition, he notes that the team has "good experience and a nice balance of new players." Returning team members include seniors Russel, Taylor, Chris Clark and Jason Golder, juniors Mike Cormier, Ben Hardy, who was All-New England last year, Rob Patterson, Jason Price, and Scott Wiercinski, as well as sophomores Sergey Cherednichenko, Matt Franzosa, John Ginnacopoulos, Pete Soden and Chris Wenger. New additions to the team this year include juniors Jani Groblewski and Aaron Tyler, sophomores Brady Alshouse, Brewster Boyd, Paul Chusid and Bryan Donohoe along with first-years Joey Louis, Trent Nutting, Mike Saunders and Matt Sorokin.

The team has played three scrimmages this season and done fairly well. Playing against the Coast Guard Academy at Loomis-Chaffee, the team had reasonable success and came out with a 2-2 draw. Both goals came from Ginnacopoulos, the first off an exceptional play from Cormier. However, multiple scoring opportunities were not converted and several defensive lapses occurred making the game a lot closer than it should have been. Coach Saward was not entirely pleased and was overheard saying, "The score could have been bloody eight to two!"

The second game played was against Hamilton College. Middlebury came out on top 1-0 after Ginnacopoulos made a slashing run into the box with the ball late in overtime and was cut down after beating the last defender. Russel converted the penalty kick and the defense held for the remainder of

(see Men's soccer, page 14)



David Barreda

A helpful coach tries to get the men's soccer team pointed in the right direction for the upcoming season.

Women's soccer steamrolls pre-season opponents

By Stacey Gorski
Staff Writer

When any other team loses their starting mid-field and number one goalkeeper, the following season is a "rebuilding year." This is not the case for the 1997 varsity women's soccer team. Although six players graduated and junior Kirstin Gerety is abroad, the team is prepared to be the most competitive and physical team in NESCAC this season.

The returning players on the team got off to an early start with a trip to Montreal and Quebec City in the middle of August. Twenty players packed it up and headed north for a week or training, competition, and sight seeing.

Middlebury's first match-up placed the Panthers against a talented Lavalle University team—a program which is lead by two members of the Canadian women's national soccer team. Middlebury shut them out. Two days later the Montreal All-Stars rolled into town only to be sent home on the losing end of a 3-1 Middlebury victory.

Two days later the Montreal All-Stars rolled into to town only to be sent home on the losing end of a 3-1 Middlebury victory.

The Panthers winning ways were not stopped by the border police. At the tail end of pre-season, Norwich and Williams traveled to Middlebury for a round-robin event. Game one of the day saw Middlebury down Norwich 1-0, on a goal scored due to hustle. Two Middlebury players pressured the ball as the keeper bobbled it on the goal line, and the Panthers put the ball in the back of the net.

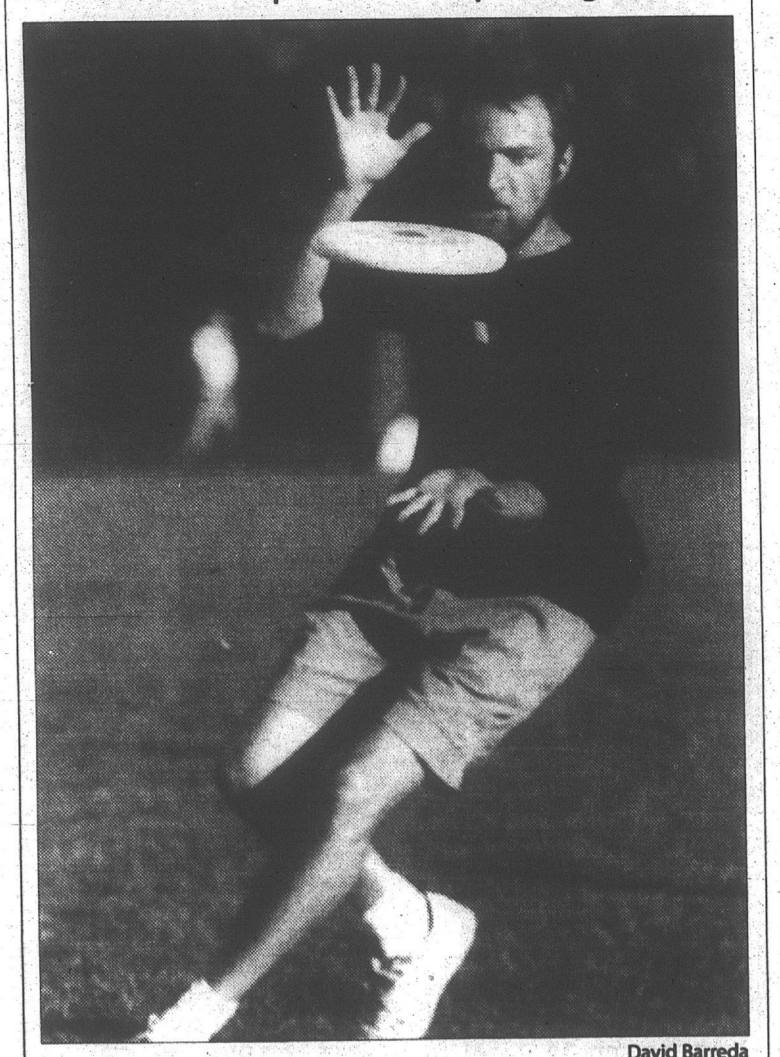
Williams beat Norwich 3-0, and the scene was set for a showdown between the Purple Cows and the Panthers. In a well played and hard fought game. Middlebury prevailed 2-0. The goals came from young and old alike. Senior captain Laurie Higginbotham scored from deep on the left flank, and first-year Alyda Corbett drilled a shot from 30 yards out.

Right now, the Panthers are preparing for their first regular season match-up which brings the Bates College Bobcats to Middlebury. The team will be led by its seniors, including captains Higginbotham and Melissa Barker, as well as seniors Amy Coseo, Lina Chickering, Karin Schaper and Sarah Gilson.

The backfield, which has given up just three goals in five games this pre-season, is solidified by returnees Barker, Chickering, Schaper, Elizabeth Mann '99, Frances Madsen '99, and strengthened by newcomers Corbett, Wendy Miner '01 and Megan Olsen '01. Thus far, the transition game has also been successful for the Panthers with the midfield play of Gilson, Coseo, Amity Wall '99, Amanda Fiedler '01 and Molly Holmberg '01. The front line has been manned by returners Coseo, Wall, Hedda Bernsten '00, Kate Stirrat hg'99, and Chrissy Peterson '99.

The Panthers have high hopes for the season, as the team has been playing very well together. Though the early season win over Williams may mean little in the standings, it was a psychological preparation for many good things that are to come from this team. The Panthers begin their season on Saturday, September 13 at home against Bates, an NCAA tournament team last season, and a tough first test for the Panthers.

Ultimate Frisbee practices for upcoming season



David Barreda

Displaying flawless technique, *Pete Emerson `98 takes advantage of the last days of summer during Ultimate practice.*

Championship prospect drives Panther football

By Chris Botting
Sports Editor

Coming back from a 5-3 finish last fall, the Middlebury men's football team is hungry a championship season this year.

Now into the third year of revamping and restructuring the program, the Panthers are more than ready to reclaim the dominance of years past. Says senior Tahg Campell "Barring serious injuries, I think we have all the tools needed to win [the championship]."

This year's roster boasts an impressive squad of ninety-five players, all skilled and eager to play. In order to accommodate such numbers, practice teams have been separated into four complete groups on both sides of the ball. Needless to say, this has made for an exciting and very competitive pre-season.

The Panther's are led this year by senior tri-captains Josh Bonifas, Brad Somma, and Steve Monniger. These three individuals bring together the necessary character, athleticism, and heart needed to rouse the Panthers to battle. They ensure strong and passionate leadership, backed up by their performance on the grid-iron.

Led by the captains, the senior class is made up of well seasoned and talented veterans of Middlebury football. Heading into what will be their final season of football, the seniors know that their time here is almost over. This is the season that they will always remember in years to come, being the last time that they have the proud privilege of strapping on Middlebury colors and going to war with their mates.

If they can remain healthy, the Panthers are looking incredibly strong on both sides of the ball. The offensive line has been working hard through the pre-season under the guidance of captain Somma. Expect juniors Matt Saxton, Todd Brandenberger, Jason Clark and Pat Colwell to seal off the defense and buy time for the offense.

Juniors Adam Pascal and Jeff Sengle look to start in the offensive backfield behind the strong leadership of last year's starting and record-breaking quarterback Brian Coates `99.

The wide receiver corps is a large and talented group eager for time on the field, but look for seniors Dave Frye and Brad Martin

(see Championship, page 14)